EAST BAY EXPRESS

DECEMBER 1-7, 2010 [illegible] EASTBAYEXPRESS.COM

HAPPY HOOKER
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Is SF Bay Fished Out?

Not yet. But with salmon off-limits, and catches of striped bass, halibut, rockfish, sturgeon, and other fish way down, Bay Area fishermen, fish wholesalers, and seafood restaurants face an uncertain future.

By Alastair Bland

MOVIES 36

FOOD 31

NO PORK, NO PROBLEM

No Worries' vegan Filipino food is quietly iconoclastic

By Anneli Rufus

Taking the flesh out of Filipino food is like taking the rice out of sushi. But what if you'd never tasted sushi? One-hundred percent vegan Filipino food, such as that served at No Worries, is highly anomalous for a cuisine that in its natural habitat is about 94 percent meat. But if you're like most Americans, chances are you've barely even sampled Filipino food, whose obscurity compared to other Asian cuisines is pretty inexplicable, given that US history and Filipino history have been intimately entwined since the Spanish American War in 1898. But being an adobo virgin means being able to tuck into a No Worries meal without needing to depressurize. No pork, no problem. No cultural reference, no culture shock. *Story inside*

NEWS 9

THE NEW PARKWAY?

An effort to reopen the Parkway Theater progresses, but challenges remain

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On the Cover *Photo courtesy the Happy Hooker*

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Editorial
Editor Stephen Buel
Managing Editor Kathleen Richards
Staff Writer Robert Gammon
Music Editor Rachel Swan
Arts Editor Nate Seltenrich
Calendar Editor Ellen Cushing
Editorial Interns Madeleine Key, Charlie Mintz, Nick Sachs[illegible]
Contributors Claudia Bauer, Jody Bettinelli, DeWitt Cheng, David Downs, Chris Duffey, Michele Ellson, Jacob Fein-Heslin, Rachel Finn, Dave Gil de Rubio, Andrew Gilbert, John Jun, J.R. Jones, Ron Kelly, Kirby Kleiman, Kelli McGrath, J. poet, Sonya Revell, Anneli Rufus, Joseph Schell, Judith Schenkman, Victor Sernus, Jessie Seja, Matthew Stafford, Chris Thompson, Kelly Vance

Art & Production
Production Manager Nicholas Wong
Graphic Designers Trish Kelly, Elaine Shaw

Circulation
Circulation Manager Clinton Fernandez

Business
Publisher Jody Colley
Business Coordinator Paige Cole
Systems Managers Sirius Networks
President Jay Youngdahl

Advertising
Sales & Marketing Director Terry Furry
Account Executives Fabien Alata, Ben Gramberg, Justin Hanic, Kavon Kavousi, Chris Mathison, Marie Ortega, Sarah Woodruff
Marketing Manager Pam Gebers
Advertising Coordinator Dave Mitchell

The *Express* is the local alternative to mainstream media. We exist to promote truth, expose wrongdoing, and give voice to the voiceless. We are dedicated to local arts and culture. We aim for the highest standards in our journalism and business practices. As an independent local business, we want to help improve the East Bay economy and environment. The *Express* provides a [illegible] work atmosphere where employees are respected and developed.

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NEWS & OPINION

EAST BAY EXPRESS
Jean the Giant-Killer

LETTERS

A Tasty Pudding

This is an excellent article. Jean Quan is officially the Mayor-Elect of Oakland. What Quan has done, whether a person supports her or not, which I surely do, is a quintessential lesson in grassroots politics. She went door-to-door, block by block, introducing herself and educating people about Don Perata, the long-term kingpin of not only Oakland politics but California politics. He has been the quintessential pay-as-you-go politician. He took pride in calling himself The Don, clearly using the Mafia title in jest, but in all seriousness, to try to intimidate anyone who tried to oppose him. Ranked-choice voting has been the best thing that has ever happened to the City of Oakland. It spares the City of Oakland of a costly runoff and Perata outspending her, which he did 5 to 1 during this past election. I am very confident that even in a runoff that Quan still would've beaten him. Most Oaklanders are wise, fair, pragmatic and we embrace our diversity. We are not only one of the most integrated cities in the whole country, but we all get along quite well. We love our diversity. Jean is the best person for building coalitions and bringing people together. The proof is in the pudding ... mmmmmmmm.

Warren Taylor, Oakland

Be That Leader

Mayor-elect Quan, the city of my birth is in dire trouble. Crime, a broke city, Oak Knoll, the port and the city, and (I know it's not your responsibility) the schools are only some of the problems facing you and the rest of Oakland. Mayor Quan, the mission you've chosen to accept will be the toughest of your career. You will take leadership of a city in desperate need of a great leader. Please be that leader.

Robert Ax, Austin, Texas

Letters Policy
Please provide your full name, address, and daytime phone number, although we will only print your name, city, and affiliation. Send submissions to Letters@EastBayExpress.com or Letters, *East Bay Express*, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA 94607. Letters are edited for length and clarity.

Counting the Votes

Two points were missed in the RCV discussion. The second (or third) choices of Perata voters never could have mattered, because their votes would not have transferred to anyone else as long as he was still in first (or second) place. So it really makes no difference who Perata voters might have chosen. For the same reason, the third choices of Quan or Kaplan voters never could have mattered because their votes could not have transferred more than once before a winner was determined.

Robert Denham, Berkeley

No Mandate

Yes, Quan won fair and square. No, she does not have a mandate. All of Quan's first, second-, and third-choice votes amount to 44 percent of the 122,000 voters. That's not a mandate, and many people already are talking about how to fix or just toss out ranked-choice balloting. One insider beat another despite ranked-choice voting, lots of other candidates, and one new candidate — Joe Tuman — who became a serious contender until the media drowned him out in the horse race coverage of the election.

Charles Pine, Oakland

Rank Voting

Your front page story "Jean the Giant-Killer" with its bold assertion, "It wasn't just about ranked-choice voting," gave me quite a start. Oakland has a bizarre new mayoral election system, which, when no candidate initially gets a majority of all the votes, allows some voters to vote a second time. And who, pray tell, gets to vote a second time? Why, folks that voted for the least popular candidate. And why should they get to decide the election? No one has quite bothered to spell reasons for that bizarre privilege. Let's just call this "loserocracy," because it is no longer democracy. This absurd situation is straight out of George Orwell's *Animal Farm*, where some of the animals are more equal than others.

Ranked election theft is what we have seen in the Oakland mayoral election. My understanding of true American democracy is that elections are won by the person with the most votes. A simple and straightforward way of picking an election winner: Just count all the votes and the candidate with the most votes is declared the winner. But election losers in the City of Oakland apparently tired of that simplicity. No, they decided that no one could be an election winner unless they had a majority of all the votes cast. Now this presented a small problem. What if no one candidate got a majority of all the votes cast in an election? So the powers that be invented a run-off election staged between the top two candidates. But the perennial election losers tired of this. No, they wanted to devise an election system that turned losers into winners. So we now have a rank voting system where the second and third choices of voters who voted for the least popular candidate can now be as important as the original votes for the leading candidate. This is insane. This is Elections in Wonderland. It is illegal and unconstitutional to "distribute" the votes of one candidate and give them to another candidate. This rank election counting scheme violates my rights to have my vote counted in an honest election. We need to return to the traditional American election with the candidate with the most votes declared the winner.

James K. Sayre, Oakland

Editor's Note

Every single feature that you are complaining about — 1) a second election 2) between the top two vote-getters, 3) in which people who voted for one of the losers get to vote again 4) for the purpose of giving one candidate a majority of the vote — was also a feature of Oakland's prior system of run-off elections. But run-offs also cost the taxpayers more money.

[illegible] As, Seven Days 11/24

The Next Insider

Quan defeated Perata for mayor. Her first real act as mayor-elect is a big commitment to a new sports stadium, greased with lots of public funds. The parallel to Perata's 1995 Coliseum push is obvious. Despite Quan's sloganeering about neighborhoods, she is apparently nothing more than the next insider.

Charles Pine, Oakland

What Is the Cost?

I love the A's and I want them to stay, but what is the cost to the city? Search for articles on stadium costs vs. economic impact and it's always a net loser for the state. One example: DCFPI.org/would-a-publicly-fina... There is a model for stadium construction using private funds working just across the bay. I want the A's in Oakland, but after the sting of giving Al Davis a ton of cash to come back and helping to cause this mess, I'm wary of investing public money to finance a private business. Also, shouldn't we expect major buildings like stadiums to outlive the average person? Are we going to do this again in 45 years?

Roberto Santiago, Berkeley

[illegible] 11/10

A Bright Light

Great artist Rafael Canal is a bright light for the Bay Area. He is multi-talented and creates art that will keep your undivided attention.

Mikhel Doud, San Francisco

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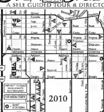

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2 Shibumi Gallery 528-7736 W●✓
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3 Brushstrokes Studio 528-1560 W●✓
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www.brushstrokestudio.com
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4 The Berkeley Potters Guild W●✓
731 Jones St. @ 4th 524-703
www.berkeleypotters.com (open 10-6)
decorative, functional & sculptural ceramics by 16 artist members

5 Stained Glass Garden inc. 841-2200 W●✓
1800 4th St. @ [illegible]
www.stainedglassgarden.com
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6 Lilmira Leather 843-8 77 W●✓
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8 Vintage European Posters W●
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9 June Taylor Co. 548-2236 ●✓
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10 Donkey & Goat Winery 868-9174 W
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11 Deborah Sibony 390-2882 ●✓
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12 Susan McAllister 525-4375
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watercolor, pencil, portraits, lessons

13 Judy Seidel 524-4613 W
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14 Jan Thyer 526-5 6
1299 Rose St. @ Chestnut
janthyer.com
pit-fired ceramic vessels

15 Wilma Wyss 525-4026 ●
1044 Sierra St. @ Sonoma
www.wyssdesign.com
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abstract concrete & mosaic sculpture

16 The Hillside Club 848-3227 W
2286 Cedar St. @ Arch
www.hillsideclub.org
(Dec. 4-5 only, reception Friday evening Dec. 3)
gallery: paintings, textiles, jewelry, metalwork, photography, art posters

17 ACCI Gallery 843-2527 W●✓
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www.accigallery.com
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18 Berkeley Rustic Birdhouses 8 7-5414 W●✓
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19 Karen Benioff Friedman 527-3268
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20 Metro Lighting 540-0509 W●✓
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21 Lewis Suzuki 849-1427 W●✓
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24 Jared's Pottery 845-4370 W●
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jaredspottery.com
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25 Nina Kim MacKenzie (888)866-0016 W
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26 Kala Art Institute 841-7000 W
2990 San Pablo Ave. @ Ashby
www.kala.org
(open only Dec. 4 & 5)
fine art prints, photos, gift items & more by Kala artists/alumni

27 Margaret Norman 848-8338
1741 Alcatraz @ Adeline
margaretnormanpottery.com
(closed Nov. 27-28)
functional ceramics

28 Expressions Gallery 644-4930 W●✓
2035 Ashby Ave. @ Adeline
expressionsgallery.org
fine art/jewelry/fiber art/garden art glass/flowers, poetry & music events

29 Catherine Galloway 393-6678 ●✓
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cathgalloway.com
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30 Sawtooth Building
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31 Sawtooth Building continues
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32 Sawtooth Building continues
2547 8th Street @ Dwight
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michaelsain.com
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bobpoolpottery.com
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• Janet Lee Smith #24 B 665-1646 W
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• Kate Anderson #24 B 622-8445 W●✓
www.kateandersonart.com
painting & mixed media sculpture

Sawtooth Building continues
• Susan Brooks #21A 845-2612 W●✓
www.susanbrooks.com
intricate jewelry & figurative artwork
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www.ukemaker.com
handcrafted ukuleles/lessons
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• Salma Arastu #3 868-6390 W●
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lyrical visions/paintings & sculpture
• Mary R. Shisler #3 533-3379 W ✓
maryshisler.com
photographs/jewelry/cards
• [illegible] #31 220-1510 W●✓
www.[illegible].net
antique glass art, jewelry & mosaics
• Anne Stutenberger 205-1984 W ✓
annestutenbergerstudio.com #38
jewelry/sculpture/goddess art

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2599 4th St. @ Parker
Young at Art Gallery #28 548-7636 W●
clearwaterarts.org
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michaelreynolds.com #38 841-1445
fine art landscape photography
• Momo #36 486-5602 W
momopaperarts.com
(open Dec. 8-9 only)
objets d'art paper/books/albums/boxes
• Barbi Jo Stiles #41 847-0038 W
[illegible].net
contemporary/[illegible] jewelry/pouches
• Alison R. Antelman #45 W●✓
www.arantelman.com 704-1955
jewelry gold/silver unusual stones

34 Sue Fox/Fondreams Quilts 849-1908 ●
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36 Bruno Kark Ceramics 595-81 W●
5515 Doyle St. #11 @ Powell, Emeryville
brunokark.com
wheel thrown pottery/hand/planters

37 The Beehive Berkeley 644-9517 W
2607 A 7th St. @ Parker
thebeehivemarket.com
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Room 216

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Saturday, December 4
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Room 212

DRAMA THERAPY
Sunday,
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1:00-3:00 pm
Room 507

SOMATIC PSYCHOLOGY
Wednesday,
December 8
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Room 222

INTEGRATIVE HEALTH STUDIES
Wednesday,
December 8
5:30-7:00 pm
Room 420

EXPRESSIVE ARTS THERAPY*
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Please note that the Expressive Arts Therapy information session is intimate and participatory in nature. For this reason, only 14 participants can join this session. Please RSVP to [illegible] to save your spot. Please also plan to arrive on time and stay for the duration.

[illegible] 11/10

Shovel-Ready Culture

This is an amazing exhibit. Some of the pieces were loaned by private collectors but the majority of the works had been languishing in storage at the SFMOMA, DeYoung and Legion of Honor — unseen by the public for decades. This collection is testimony to what's possible when government invests not only in shovel ready projects, but in jobs dedicated to art, music, crafts and culture.

Susan Izer, Mill Valley

Whole Wheat All the Way

No brainer! Whole wheat has more flavor and texture. As good as Amy's from a grocery or Pizza Pazza on Piedmont Avenue are for organic white flour crusts, even my 88 year-old New Yorker dad searches out organic whole wheat crusted pizzas for his Sunday alternative to cooking. We even did a pizza on that big round rye cracker, but it was too thick. Tasty, though.

Linus Hollis, Piedmont

[illegible] 11/10

Pot Users Killed Prop 19

I hate to say it, but it was our own doing, those who support the usage and benefits of marijuana, that caused this bill not to pass and we've set ourselves back another ten years. It wasn't about the actual legalization of the plant (not drug). It was about being heard, having a voice.

People were so caught up in the media propaganda that they failed to look at the true picture. The federal government would have overturned our proposition before it ever got put into practice. The fact is they don't have the balls to say to the people of this nation, the people they falsely imprisoned, to those who lost their homes, jobs, families, lives, "We're sorry. We were wrong." How would they? How can you apologize for forty to sixty years of ignorance and naivety?

This is the reason medicinal was placed in front of marijuana in the first place. How can you say that what helps a patient like myself wouldn't have a similar effect on someone using it for recreational purposes?

I voted yes on *Prop 19*. Unfortunately, a lot of people who benefit from this crop did not, out of greed. Growers, dealers, ignoramuses who chose no because they think it's written incorrectly. (BTW, it can be amended like SB 420 amended Prop 215 to make the corrections on the mistakes made prior.) They are at fault. 500,000 votes? Are you kidding? LA alone could have covered that in dispensary workers who chose not to vote, as though the law would somehow force their businesses to close.

Anyways, I'm rambling. Maybe because I smoked a fat bowl to calm myself for the fact that we had our chance again and blew it. Last time was 1972. I wasn't even alive then. In conclusion, I'm disappointed in our so called "union." We failed our own. We are the only ones affected by this. You who voted NO or didn't vote at all, are trying to take away our voice. But, like the many minorities who became the majority before in the fight for rights, we will not tread lightly into the dark abyss. We will fight till our final breath. WE WILL HAVE OUR VOICE!

Ryan Hoffing, Simi Valley

Involve the People

The Central Valley is stuck in a "cannabis-is-illegal-no-matter-what-Prop-215-said" mode. I will be opening California2012.org forum in hopes of gathering the pro cannabis people from all over the State of California in hopes of initiating dialogue for a 2012 legalization initiative. One thing that Prop 19 did not do was get the people in the loop of crafting their own initiative. If we are to succeed in 2012 we need the communities involved and not just canna business millionaires.

Ernst Berg, Turlock

[illegible] of Medical Cannabis Legalization

Way Past Absurd

The amount of resources spent by law enforcement and the legal system is way past absurd. In a time where revenue is scarce everywhere, these outdated drug policies suggest a blind unquestioning dogma — kids will smoke pot, everyone will be high, etc. Truth is they do it now anyway. Consider that if everyone who smoked pot were rounded up, law enforcement, you would be prosecuting half the population, and you would need the other half on salary to do it!

Dean H., Berkeley

[illegible] Business of Extortion 2.0 [illegible]

Yelp and the Business of Extortion, 5.0

I also own a restaurant and they filtered all my good reviews and left one bad one by a competitor. I know who left that bad review. I can not get through to yelp to remove my business. I think this company can destroy anyone's business very easy, and I know for sure that they are getting paid high from a lot of the other competitors. Just say I own a Greek restaurant for 15 years, then all of a sudden another Greek Restaurant opens right down the street. Yelp is watching the both of us and the restaurant that is paying yelp will be the lucky one, but they still do not have any business to put the paying guy ahead. I want my business off and quick. I advise any one not to use them at all. They are bad, bad company.

Louise Gomez, Wellington, Florida

Correction

In our November 24 article "Meredith Maran's New Look at Recovered Memories," we misquoted the author and erroneously made it appear as if she had multiple lovers during the period in the mid 1980s that is discussed in the story. We also misstated the publication date of her new book, *My Lie: A True Story of False Memory*. It came out 16 September. And the photograph of Maran was taken by Cori Wells Braun. ■

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SEVEN DAYS

THE GOP IS TOXIC IN CALIFORNIA

Despite historic gains throughout the country, the Republican Party lost every major political race in the state. Plus, Oakland to issue municipal ID/debit cards to immigrants.

By Robert Gammon

When **Kamala Harris** finally defeated **Steve Cooley** last week in the California attorney general's race, it gave Democrats a clean sweep of all elected statewide offices in the November election. It also further deepened one of the great political mysteries of 2010: Why did the Republican wave that swept the country completely miss California? The GOP took control of the **US House of Representatives** and almost matched the **US Senate**, too. Yet in California, being a Republican candidate was practically the kiss of death.

The GOP lost every major contest in California, and failed to pick up a single Congressional seat. In the final tight race in the state, East Bay Democratic Congressman **Jerry McNerney** was declared the winner last week over Republican **David Harmer**, even though the national **Republican Party** had targeted McNerney's Eleventh District seat as a potential pickup.

So what happened? In retrospect, it now seems clear that the **Tea Party Movement** led the GOP too far into the red for a blue state like California. Political analysts also noted to the *Contra Costa Times* over the weekend that the Republicans' strident stance against illegal immigration was toxic in a state with so many Latino voters.

No group may have understood that better than the **California Nurses' Association**. The influential union had nurtured and pushed illegal immigrant housekeeper **Nicky Diaz** to come forward with her story about **Meg Whitman**, the *San Francisco Chronicle* reported. Diaz was angry at Whitman for firing her and effectively tossing her to the curb, so the union referred her to celebrity attorney **Gloria Allred**. It was a fatal blow for the Republican gubernatorial candidate and helped solidify in voters' minds that the GOP was anti-Latino.

The California backlash against the Republican Party also helped take down Cooley, the popular district attorney of Los Angeles County. In fact, the Cooley campaign argued last week that if the attorney general's office had been considered nonpartisan, he would have won. But with the scarlet "R" next to his name, his chances were doomed. There is some evidence to back up their assertion. As a nonpartisan district attorney, Cooley repeatedly won reelection in Los Angeles County by substantial margins. But running as a Republican, he lost to Harris in his home county by 14 percentage points.

As for Harris, the anti-Republican fervor was definitely a plus. Her staunch opposition to the death penalty in a state where capital punishment remains popular made her a vulnerable candidate. But in the end, she rode the anti-GOP wave to victory, defeating Cooley by about 70,000 votes. Her win also was historic. She became the first woman, African American, and Indian-American to be elected state attorney general. And her hands-off approach to medical cannabis promises to make marijuana advocates rest easier each night.

Oakland to Issue IDs to Immigrants

The City of Oakland will soon begin issuing municipal identification cards to residents who may otherwise have difficulty in obtaining proper IDs, the *Oakland Tribune* and *Chronicle* reported. Under the program authored by Councilman **Ignacio De La Fuente** and Mayor-elect **Jean Quan**, the municipal IDs also will work as debit cards — a nationwide first. The IDs also will be honored by Oakland cops, and city officials hope that the cards will encourage people who witness crimes or are crime victims to cooperate with police officers.

Quan Gets the Boot

All that time and effort campaigning apparently had a downside for Mayor-elect Quan. She said that she and her husband, **Floyd Huen**, who walked about two-thirds of the city knocking on doors during the campaign, were so busy trying to beat **Don Perata** that they neglected to pay their outstanding parking tickets. And so an Oakland police technician had a parking boot placed on Quan's Toyota *Prius* last week. Quan quickly paid off the $1,000 in tickets and got the boot removed — but not before the *Chronicle* found out about it.

Bay Guardian Wins Again

The **California Supreme Court** turned down a request by the *SF Weekly* to review a $20 million plus judgment won by the *San Francisco Bay Guardian*, the *Chronicle* reported. The ruling essentially meant that the *Guardian* won its case against the *SF Weekly* after proving in court that the *Weekly* illegally sold ads at below-cost in order to put the *Guardian* out of business. However, the *Guardian* is still fighting with the *Weekly's* parent company, **Village Voice Media**, in an effort to collect on its judgment. The two sides are in settlement talks.

Three-Dot Roundup

California's bullet train could be the first victim of the Republican takeover of Congress. The *San Mateo County Times* reported that House GOP members want to yank $2 billion in federal stimulus funding for the high-speed train. … **La Niña** is the likely cause of the recent cold snap in the Bay Area, but despite the heavy rains and snow in the Sierra, it's unclear whether the cooling of Pacific Ocean currents will lead to a wet winter in Northern California. … The new toll lane on Interstate 680 in the East Bay is getting mixed reviews. Transportation officials say it's working as expected while motorists contend that it has made traffic worse, the *Chronicle* reported. … And outgoing San Leandro mayor **Tony Santos** is refusing to concede to defeat even though he is not officially contesting his loss to challenger **Stephen Cassidy**, the *Daily Review* reported. Santos contends that ranked-choice voting cost him the election. But Santos was for the new voting system before he was against it. ●

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LEGALIZATION NATION

VAPORIZERS, GRINDERS, AND MINIVACS

Holiday gifts for that special stoner in your life.

By David Downs

'Tis the season for "harm reduction." This school of psychology assumes that rational adults sometimes engage in risky or unhealthy behavior. Teaching them to reduce the associated harms picks up where outright banning and criminalizing fail. With more than 300,000 qualified medical cannabis patients in California alone and Arizona becoming the fifteenth medical marijuana state, there's a huge demand for safer, more sustainable ways of cannabinoid administration and the market is meeting that demand head on this holiday season. *Legalization Nation* consulted doctors, dispensary operators, growers, and Haight Street retailers to round up six legit items in a nebulous, largely unregulated field.

Vapor Brothers Hands-Free Vaporizer

Back in pre-history, the Scythians of the central Asian steppes reportedly heated stalks of psychoactive weed on hot stones inside a teepee and inhaled the medicinal vapor. Three thousand years later, vaporization remains a leading harm reduction technique in medical cannabis. It provides much of cannabis' medical qualities without creating the carcinogens of burning plant matter. Deep in several years on the market, the German-made $669 **Volcano Vaporizer** is the Mercedes-Benz of vaporizers — known globally for its quality materials and construction and impeccable warranty. Out in Los Angeles, **Vapor Brothers** has created a sensible domestic product backed by a limited lifetime warranty. Their Hands Free Vaporizer is a traditional box-style device with a stone heating element, à la the Scythians. MSRP: $165

Space Case Grinder

Grinding has emerged as a most effective way to create more surface area out of buds — mandatory for vaporizing, and quite effective for rolling or packing in a pipe. But not all grinders are created equal. Shoddily made imported metal grinders can chip away at themselves, creating tiny metallic shavings in herb and that's not very medicinal. **Space Case** makes a top-shelf two-piece grinder precision machined from high-quality aerospace aluminum with super sharp cutting edges that will not dull. The large, three-and-one-quarter-inch-wide grinder goes for $49.64

Tightvac Minivac

Keeping cannabis in plastic bags is actually a no-no. THC is an acid, which means it breaks down soft plastic like sandwich bags causing leaching of petrochemicals into the plant matter. Best stick to glass containers, Pyrex jars, or the popular **Tightvac** line of vacuum-sealed, super-hard plastic containers. Tightvac jars have a button on the top of them. Squeeze the release button to pull the top off, fill up the Tightvac. When the top is pushed back down, the jar sucks out air, creating a vacuum seal that's smell-proof, airtight, and highly water-resistant. Containers come in a range of colors and sizes — from tiny pocket containers all the way up to bread loaf-size. Based out of Venice. **Tightvac Minivac** TV-1 (.12 liter; 2 7/8 inches tall) $8.25

Ital Hempwicks

It's always surprising to see hard-core foodies, environmentalists, and health nuts using a standard butane lighter to do anything, let alone ignite plant matter going directly into the lungs. Lighters run on butane, and contain sulfur and flint, which are highly poisonous if inhaled. Long-term butane exposure causes internal organ and nervous system problems. Made from hemp and bee wax, the **Ital Hempwick** is a six-inch long piece of thin twine. Light the Hempwick and then use the strong, clean burning wick flame to combust medicinals. Made from Sacramento company Ital, they're waterproof and work well even in the wind. $1.25 per pack

RAW King Size Natural Unrefined Rolling Papers

Organic, vegan, and sustainable has come to rolling papers. Normal rolling papers can contain unneeded chemicals and flavors. Sodium, potassium, and magnesium are used as accelerants, and papers are often bleached white. The RAW brand of rolling papers came out of Spain to awe the market this year with an additive- and bleach-free rolling paper that's thin and translucent, holds fast with a natural hemp-based gum, and burns clean with no taste. The **RAW King Size** comes with forty one-and-a-quarter inch wide, unbleached hemp fiber papers packaged so artfully they don't even have a crease — the culmination of twelve years of research, RAW says. $2.50

Fold-A-Bowl Pipe

There's nothing safe or sane about flying with medical marijuana and supplies. The rarely seen **Fold A Bowl** makes the practice a little safer with its line of disposable foldable stainless-steel pipes. Each Fold A Bowl is the size of a credit card, and comes with a tiny instruction sheet explaining how to fold the stamped, medical-grade steel into a palm-sized smoking utensil. No need to buy cheap paraphernalia in shady parts of a strange town. And no regrets about tossing a low-cost Fold-A-Bowl before a return flight home. $4.95 for four. ●

Thanks to Dr. Jake Holland, Harm Reduction Consultant Jennifer Janichek, and the staffs of SPARC Dispensary, Green Cross Dispensary, Sunshine Coast, and Pipe Dreams.

David.Downs@gmail.com

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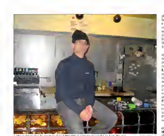
This column is culled from our blog of the same name.


J. Moses Ceaser says he needs to raise $400,000 in order to reopen the Parkway Theater. NATE SELTENRICH

THE NEW PARKWAY?

An effort to reopen Oakland's Parkway Theater breaks new ground but challenges lie ahead

By Nate Seltenrich

J. Moses Ceaser is a popular man in Oakland these days. For months, the entrepreneur and documentary photographer has led a spirited and very public effort to reopen the city's revered **Parkway Theater**. Last week he formally announced that he'd succeeded. Well, almost. As of press time he had yet to sign a lease with the theater's owners and landlords — but he promises that a deal is right around the corner, likely by the end of the year. Assuming it is, his business, currently dubbed **The New Parkway**, should be opening the theater's doors on Park Boulevard by early summer. Yet as Parkway supporters who've followed the theater's travails since its sudden closure last spring know all too well, that may be easier said than done.

A recent tour of the 1920s-era theater helped confirm why. From top to bottom, it's in no shape to show movies. The building's owners, **Yan and Judy Cheng**, have estimated that it may need as much as $500,000 in repairs, Ceaser said, and a string of suitors to reopen the Parkway have thus far been unable to overcome that financial obstacle. But it looks like things may be changing. Ceaser said the primary difference between his attempt and previous attempts is that the owners recently agreed to shoulder some of the costs. While the precise nature of those contributions remains to be finalized, business loans and redevelopment funds from the city could help. Both the **Redevelopment Agency** and Councilwoman **Pat Kernighan**, who was unavailable for comment, have played a part in the negotiations.

The day after Ceaser's e-mail announcing the Parkway's reopening went out last week, he, three members of his team, a contractor, and the Chengs conducted a thorough walk-through designed to assess the building's repair needs. The kitchen boasts a commercial pizza oven but little else. The bathrooms aren't ADA accessible and need serious attention. The projection room is cramped and missing critical equipment. Then there's the faulty plumbing, outdated electrical system, and leaking roof, evidenced by a twenty-foot and growing hole in the paper-backed ceiling above the upstairs theater.

It's daunting work, but that doesn't faze Ceaser, perpetually optimistic as he is. In fact, even without a lease in hand, he's envisioning upgrades of his own. During the tour he walked about tapping on walls and trying to identify, with the help of the contractor, which were load bearing and which were not. It's helpful knowledge to have when you're considering knocking out walls and reconfiguring spaces, as Ceaser would like to do with the entrance area. An adjacent space that used to be an H&R Block tax office is now part of the theater, and Ceaser intends to integrate it into the lobby.

But that takes money — and it's money, on both sides, that will determine if the Parkway truly reopens next summer. Ceaser's business plan, which relies heavily on the picture-pub-pizza model popularized by the theater's previous operators and was hashed out over six months of research, identifies $400,000 in startup costs. This includes leases for the existing 35 mm projectors, digital projectors, a sound system, kitchen and bar equipment, restaurant supplies, furniture, carpeting, painting, facade improvements, kitchen and lobby work, and a host of other one-time costs. Ceaser is actively recruiting investors large and small and recognizes that his success will largely depend upon hitting his target. Through a funding platform called Kickstarter, The New Parkway has raised approximately $8,000 to date.

Ceaser hopes the owners will assume responsibility for legal and structural issues, mainly the restrooms, roof, electrical, plumbing, and fire safety. The exact cost of related repairs is unknown, but according to **Larry Gallegos**, redevelopment area manager for East Oakland, the city can provide matching grants of at least $75,000. That number could rise considerably given the property's multiple street addresses and importance to the surrounding neighborhood, which has been designated a master-plan streetscape development zone. A renovated Parkway Theater could work wonders for the area, Gallegos said, so he's looking forward to seeing it succeed. "It has a spillover effect to all the other businesses. If they see the Parkway being improved, they're going to want to improve their storefronts as well."

The New Parkway also has the support of a nonprofit organization called **I Like the Parkway**, which formed following the theater's closure and amassed nearly 5,000 Facebook followers in its first week. On the heels of Ceaser's announcement last week, I Like the Parkway officially endorsed The New Parkway — the first time it's done so for any potential new Parkway operator. Cofounder and spokesman **Peter Prato** said they did it primarily to help Ceaser succeed by publicizing his call for investors. "In the past, the ideas were good, but all the pieces didn't seem to be there," Prato said. "There was always something missing. ... If there's a group that can reopen this, it's them."

A RENOVATED PARKWAY THEATER COULD WORK WONDERS FOR THE AREA, GALLEGOS SAID, SO HE'S LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING IT SUCCEED: "IT HAS A SPILLOVER EFFECT TO ALL THE OTHER BUSINESSES."

Last week's walk-through bore out Prato's confidence. The mood was light and friendly, and Ceaser and the Chengs appeared to share a good rapport. Mr. Cheng showed off some of his favorite features of the building, such as the Egyptian-motif lights framing the main screen, while Ceaser cracked jokes with all the cheerful ambition of a first-time homebuyer touring his new house. Mr. Cheng even gave out hugs at the end of the evening. "I want to open the theater soon," he'd told me earlier in the day, and it seemed he meant it. "I'm really, really excited." ■

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JEAN QUAN AND TWITTER SPAM

The mayor-elect's social media strategy appears to have earned her the ire of some constituents

By Ellen Cushing

During her mayoral campaign, **Jean Quan** cast herself as a hardworking, even-keeled candidate, more concerned with walking precincts and talking to voters than with cosmetic indicators of popularity such as Facebook. And her social-media presence was restrained: In the nearly nine months between when she started her **Twitter** account in February and November 10, when she declared victory, she tweeted 122 times.

But then something strange happened. In the fifteen days after her win, Quan tweeted a staggering 544 times — an average of more than 36 tweets per day. Many were puzzlingly non-Oakland-related, and peppered with hashtags irrelevant to the content of the tweets. Quan has retweeted **Mistah FAB**, **CNN**, and celebrity chef **Paula Deen**; she's shared recipes for turkey soup, news about police raids in Brazil, and updates about the Pope's position on condoms. In a single day, she tweeted or retweeted on topics including the **Oakland Museum**'s **Pixar** exhibit, the **DREAM Act**, the **Oakland A's**, the recent tsunami in **Indonesia**, how to avoid holiday stress, a road closure at **Children's Fairyland**, an East Oakland flower shop (twice), animal rescue, transphobia, the need for deaf-friendly movie theaters, and a downtown coffee shop's hot beverage offerings.

Quan has since been derided as something of a tweet spammer. A parody account, **@FakeJeanQuan**, has mocked her Twitter activity, and it's gaining followers fast. All of this is adding up to what some are calling the mayor-elect's first public-relations misstep.

Susan Barnes, a social media consultant who doesn't work with Quan, said she advises clients not to tweet that often. "You risk annoying people, and people unfollowing," she said.

Social media can be a double-edged sword for public officials. Tools like Twitter provide an easy way to interact with constituents directly. But eagerness, inexperience, or unfamiliarity with Twitter's unspoken codes can quickly come to look like recklessness. "It's as if their son or daughter told them, 'Hey Mom, Twitter is hip; you should get into it,'" another Quan follower said. FakeJeanQuan speculated that maybe "Jean got busy and was offered help by someone who was young and close to her."

Quan's campaign spokesperson **Sue Piper** said Quan's adult daughter **Lailan Huen** had been handling the mayor-elect's social media presence, but that someone else recently took over Twitter. Huen couldn't be reached for comment.

For Quan's part, she's been cryptic about what happened. When a reporter asked her on Twitter who was handling the account, she responded by tweeting: "We LOVE #twitter #oakland and the #bayarea." ●

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EAST BAY EXPRESS

The Happy Hooker once prowled the bay in search of monster sturgeon (left). Today, the catch is shark, a species once derided as trash fish. Courtesy Happy Hooker

Is San Francisco Bay Fished Out?

Not yet. But with salmon off-limits, and catches of striped bass, halibut, rockfish, sturgeon and other fish way down, Bay Area fishermen, fish wholesalers, and seafood restaurants face an uncertain future.

By Alastair Bland

Nearly ten large sharks lie on the wooden dock at the Berkeley Marina, trickles of blood leaking from their gills and a buzz of excitement in the evening air. A dozen fishermen unload their rods and lunch coolers from the boat — plus several more sharks — while a deckhand dressed in slickers begins to fillet the fish one by one on a cleaning table. He deftly cuts the meat from the cartilage and gristle, slices each piece, packs the skinless snow-white slabs into plastic bags, and tosses the heads and carcasses into the water. While their sharks are rendered into pan-sized pieces, the fishermen wait, some drinking beer, all admiring the length and girth of the fish still at their feet. The largest is a sevengill shark more than seven feet long and perhaps 150 pounds.

So guesses **James Smith Jr.**, the 37-year-old barrel-chested captain of the recreational party fishing boat ***California Dawn***, the vessel that caught the fish. Smith has been fishing for sharks in the deep holes of central San Francisco Bay for much of the summer and fall. Today, October 29, was the last trip that he would make for the season — and it was a smashing success. The sharks are mostly sevengills, plus several four-foot leopard sharks and a 60-pound soupfin.

"These fish are excellent eating," Smith tells his customers, who have paid $100 each for the day of fishing. "I often barbecue the meat, or bread and deep-fry it."

Sevengill shark, especially, is as good as anything else in the bay, Smith swears. But it's nothing like salmon. Halibut, too, would give shark meat a run for its money, as would striped bass, another highly popular game fish in San Francisco Bay. Catching those more conventional species, though, takes more effort today than ever before; there are fewer fish and more fishermen in pursuit. So, this summer, to escape the crowds of boats pursuing halibut on the Berkeley Flats and striped bass near Alcatraz, Smith set his sights for the first time on what many fishermen still call "trash fish."

In years past, all the way back to the day that Smith first bought his vessel almost twenty years ago, halibut, striped bass, lingcod, and, more than anything else, salmon were the prized quarry of the Bay Area's waters. Every spring, summer, and fall, Smith ran boatloads of fishermen onto the bay or out the Golden Gate to pursue them. So did hundreds of other commercial and recreational boats. Below in the deep, dark holes of the muddy estuarine waters, it was no secret that large sharks swam, but relatively few fishermen cared to tangle with these beasts when salmon could be had.

But today they can't be had. Salmon have been off-limits since 2008, when fisheries managers closed the season for the first time in state history due to low 2007 returns of spawning fish in the Sacramento River. While fishermen took advantage of a short and geographically limited season in the summer of 2010, for the most part no one has fished for salmon for three years in a row — and for good reason. The Chinook salmon run of the Sacramento River, once a tremendously abundant resource that provided jobs for thousands of people and a local source of wild fish for millions of Americans, crashed disastrously last decade. Fishing was banned, the fleet was grounded, and abruptly out-of-work fishermen were forced to explore new options.

They promptly swarmed the bay in 2008 to target California halibut. Compared to other species, the local population of halibut is relatively healthy by most all accounts, but in just two years of intensely increased fishing pressure, some claim to have observed a reduction in size and numbers of local halibut. Smith has seen the so-called fishing "effort shift" since the loss of the salmon season. So has **Paul Johnson**, a fish wholesaler and owner of **Monterey Fish Market** in Berkeley; **Keith Fraser**, a veteran bait shop owner in San Rafael; and **Kenny Belov**, who sells fish wholesale and owns **Fish Restaurant** in Sausalito.

"After the salmon disappeared, everyone fished for halibut because that's all there was," Belov said. "Because of that pressure, we saw a huge decline in the halibut in the Bay and there were a lot more smaller ones this year, and we all played a role in that. When one thing is gone, fishermen will always go and find something else to catch."

Some in the fishing and seafood industries now worry that the loss of the salmon industry could spark the beginnings of a domino effect — one fishery after another crashing due to consolidated and increased fishing efforts.

Erik Anfinson believes it's already happening. "The Bay is getting hammered now," said Anfinson, owner and operator of the **Bass Tub**, one of the oldest party boats in San Francisco. "This bay has had so much fishing pressure for the last three summers since the salmon closed that that now halibut scores are dropping because the bay is getting overfished," he said. "Some people are starting to fish for sharks, but who knows how long that fishery will last."

Anfinson is 38 and began working as a party boat deckhand for his dad when he was just 10. "My dad had two boats back then," Anfinson said. "That's how good fishing was. He ran two trips almost every single day. Now I see everything changing and it's all for the worse."

Even just one decade ago, bass fishing was "wide open," Anfinson recalled. "You could get limits in a heartbeat. Now you're lucky to get a few stripers mixed in with a few halibut."

Although commercial striper fishing is not permitted, thousands of recreational anglers in the Bay Area still try their luck at catching striped bass. But veterans say the quality of fishing is nothing remotely close to what it once was. One of these old timers is James Smith's father, who knows the unfortunate story of the bay as well as anyone else. Although his son is banking on a future in fishing, Jim Smith Sr. speaks a gloomy prophecy: "Fishing is over with."

The older Smith is a 69-year-old party boat captain who has operated the ***Happy Hooker*** for decades and still takes customers after striped bass, halibut, and sturgeon as he has done for forty years. He recalls vividly when three-fish limits of striped bass were the norm, with the fish often averaging twenty pounds. From San Pablo Bay to Alcatraz to Crissy Field to Ocean Beach, the action was often so fast that the senior Smith ran two trips per day, returning to the dock before noon to pick up a fresh load of customers and returning to the hotspot for another go. For some years, Smith supplemented his income by fishing commercially for local Chinook salmon, but he dropped out of that industry in 1990.

"I could make as much in the party boat business as in salmon fishing, so I quit," he said. "But every year since then, business has dropped."

Today, the limit is two stripers per person per day, and bass heavier than twenty pounds are rare. Fish weighing ten pounds are considered large and the bulk of the catch now consists of adolescent striped bass called "schoolies" and weighing just two to four pounds. Although fishermen can still go home with limits on a fairly regular basis, it's often a gamble. With most party boats charging more than $75 for a day of fishing, anglers today often think twice about paying for a boat ride on the Bay, Smith says.

"STURGEON FISHING IS ABOUT GONE," SMITH SAID. "I ONCE HAD 27 LIMITS OF STURGEON IN A DAY AND IN FOUR DAYS I CAUGHT 84 .... NOW IF I GET 84 IN A SEASON I'M LUCKY."

"I sometimes call old customers of mine to see where they've been, and they've taken up golf," he said. "We once had lots of company trips with twenty people or so, but there were too many bad days and unhappy fishermen and some of them have just stopped sending their employees fishing."

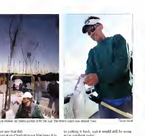
Keith Fraser tells a similar story. "Forty years ago, my God, it was unbelievable," said Fraser, the owner of **Loch Lomond Bait Shop** which opened in San Rafael in 1970. "We had catch-and-release days of a hundred fish regularly. You could catch all the bass you wanted, anytime. Now fishing is good at times."

The same can be said for the populations of white sturgeon, the largest freshwater fish in North America. California has prohibited commercial fishing for the species since 1917, and sport fishing — first allowed in 1954 — has always been regulated by a one-fish bag limit and strict size limits. Yet numbers provided by the **Department of Fish and Game** show that quality of fishing today is less than what it once was. Party boats, which have been required for decades by the Department of Fish and Game to report all sturgeon kept, took an average of 1,900 fish per year from 1966 to 1970, 525 from 1976 to 1980, 500 from 1986 to 1990, and just 240 for the past decade. Last year's catch of about 175 fish was the second lowest on record.

Today sturgeon fishing has a reputation as a sport of tremendous patience, a pastime of long, slow days on the bay. According to Fish and Game data, to catch a single keeper sturgeon, which today must measure between 46 and 66 inches, requires an average of 50 hours soaking a bait.

"Sturgeon fishing is about gone," Smith said. "I once had 27 limits of sturgeon in a day and in four days I caught 84 and each day was tied up at the dock before 12:30. Now if I get 84 in a season I'm lucky. Hell, I'm lucky to get 44 in a season."

The fish may be smaller, too. Although fifteen-foot-long white sturgeon weighing nearly a ton have reportedly been captured in the Sacramento and Columbia rivers, today 100-pound, six-foot-long fish are considered exceptionally big, and most sturgeon caught weigh less than fifty pounds. The official California state record is a 468-pounder caught in July 1983 by **Joey Pallotta** in San Pablo Bay.


The Happy Hooker still takes parties on the bay; the recent catch was striped bass

Steph Sileff

Fraser saw that fish.

"I drove up to Crockett to see him bring it in," Fraser said. "I begged him to put it back, and I almost, almost had him convinced to release it. I worked on him for an hour, but another guy came along and said, 'You can't just let a fish like that go,' and they killed it. It had a hundred pounds of roe inside it — a billion little sturgeon. The fish was so alive, and he was so close to putting it back, and it would still be swimming out there today."

The maximum size limit on sturgeon today is a protective measure designed to preserve such individuals of breeding age. Similar "size bracket" systems, as they're known, have been in place in Oregon and Washington for several decades longer than in California. Possibly as a direct result, more larger fish are found in the

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river systems of the Northwest.

Fraser remembers the 1980s with the wistful sense of longing familiar to many fishermen of his age. He cites the fall of 1983, when schools of adult sturgeon gathered in the coves along the Tiburon Peninsula shoreline. One day, Fraser stood by in his own boat watching as party boats took turns anchoring and pulling in rapid limits of the fish for their customers.

"It made me sick," he said. "It's like they had no consideration of the future. Those were the good old days and you're not going to see them again."

But **Marty Gingras**, a biologist and sturgeon expert with the Department of Fish and Game, sees the huge spike then crash in fishing success in the decade after sturgeon was first legalized "is a sign of overfishing."

Today, the fishery is more tightly controlled than ever, with a three-fish yearly limit per licensed angler, and Gingras says the ups and downs of the population may be a natural fluctuation. If department data tells a clear story, sturgeon populations are strongly influenced by rainfall. Sturgeon do not spawn every year, Gingras explains. Large females may spawn less than once per decade and their most successful spawning events occur during or immediately after seasons of tremendous rains and floods, events that far surpass any amount of water that water pumps may draw from the river. In the 1970s, large winter floods facilitated successful spawning that led to the abundance of adults in the 1980s that Smith and Fraser remember so vividly.

"Then, in the 1990s, there weren't a lot of sturgeon caught," Gingras said. The drought of the 1980s was likely the reason, he said. Currently, 22-inch sturgeon are abundant, the progeny of a rainy 2006, and 4-footers are also present in big numbers — fish that were born during the high natural flow years of 1996 and 1997. Sturgeon grow very slowly, and in time, Gingras says, another era of sturgeon fishing glory days may arrive.

Wholesaler Kenny Belov believes that one key to the restoration of Bay Area fisheries is smart fishery management and stewardship. Two weeks ago, Belov bought his first swordfish of the season, a fish taken in Southern California by a fisherman he knows personally.

"It was harpooned," said Belov, who launched a wholesale seafood-vending business in 2009 called **TwoXSea** and now sells nothing but well-sourced, traceable seafood to Bay Area restaurants. "I only sell harpooned swordfish. I sent out an e-mail to tell my clients, and that day it was gone. The next morning at two I got up and checked my e-mail, and I had messages from chefs saying, 'Hey, I'll take 15 pounds,' 'I'll take 40,' 'I'll take 10.' And I had to say, 'Sorry, it's gone.' A normal seller would have said, 'Okay, let me call the wharf and see if there's a longliner or drift-netter with anything for you.'"

Belov rarely buys netted fish of any kind and prefers those caught on hook, line, rod, and reel. For swordfish, the cleanest means of take with virtually zero bycatch or waste is harpoon fishing. Belov also says he personally knows the fishermen he buys from, and Belov in turn sells directly to restaurants, including **Revival Bar and Kitchen** in Berkeley. In doing so, he cuts out the long chain of buyers and distributors that handle most seafood as it moves from the sea to the kitchen. Belov's intention is to increase transparency and eliminate any uncertainty about a fish's origins.

"The way I do business, if the restaurant has any doubt about how or where the fish was caught, we can take out a cell phone and call the boat that it came from," Belov said. "Everything I sell is certifiable, traceable and honest. I am only buying fish directly from fishermen. In all cases I have seen the boat, been on the boat, seen the gear they use to fish, and in most cases I have also fished on the boat."

Distinctions must be made between, say, albacore tuna caught on rod and reel and those caught on longlines, or drifting nets miles long and bearing thousands of baited hooks. Distinctions, Belov says, must also be made between rockfish caught with single baited hooks and those raked from the reefs in massive drag, or trawl, nets. Belov knows just two local boats — both in Bolinas — from which he might buy rockfish. Due to complicated restrictions and regulations, though, they haven't bothered to fish rockfish in two years. Instead of turning to other vessels that may use unsustainable practices to maintain a constant supply of rockfish, Belov simply goes without.

"I tell people, 'Sorry, we don't sell longlined

Joseph Schell

Paul Johnson of Monterey Fish Market, blames commercial fishing trawlers in part for the bay's current woes.

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rockfish so we can't get you any right now.'"

Belov says he knows of restaurants that will provide customers with misinformation in order to conceal particular details about a fish's origin, such as how or where it was caught or even what species of fish it is. Rockfishes, which consist of more than fifty species in the genus Sebastes, are often served simply as "cod" or "snapper."

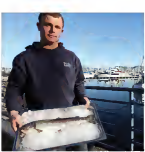
"Places like that are scared to put 'yelloweye rockfish tacos' on their menu," Belov said. "They'd much rather say 'local cod' or 'Pacific cod' tacos. Those are the names that sell. It's marketing 101. But I'm not interested in running a business of telling lies. If I don't have it, it's because I don't know what it is or where it came from."

Or it's because the fish are simply gone. Several rockfish species almost are — like cowcod, canary, and bocaccio rockfish. These species were heavily overfished decades ago and are now on the long, slow road to recovery — an especially slow process for rockfishes, which can take many years to reach sexual maturity and may live more than a century. Commercial catch totals provided by the **Pacific Fishery Management Council** reflect the drop in abundance. In 1982 the state's fleet — mostly trawlers — weighed in 25,000 tons of fish. That was the heyday of the industry, the year that landings peaked for many rockfish species. Then the numbers crashed, and by 1988 the catch totaled 13,000 tons. In 1994, commercial boats landed only 8,000 tons and in 2000 just 2,500. For the past decade catch totals among almost all rockfish species have hovered near zero.

Sacramento River salmon are almost gone, too — though for reasons much different than those that have beleaguered rockfish populations. Most ecologists and fishermen agree that fishing pressure did not cause their abrupt disappearance last decade. Rather, experts have almost universally blamed the salmon's collapse — and that of striped bass — on mismanagement of the freshwater flows in the Sacramento River, where salmon and stripers spawn. In the southern Delta, near Tracy, two large pumps currently shuttle water southward to feed a growing human population in Southern California and a thirsty agricultural industry in the San Joaquin Valley. A particularly abrupt jump in pumping rates occurred between 1999 and 2002, according to figures from the Department of Water Resources. The crash of the fall run Chinook followed closely, plunging what was once the largest and the most economically important of the Sacramento River's four annual Chinook salmon runs into near-extinction.

According to data compiled by the Pacific Fishery Management Council, each autumn for decades an average of between 150,000 and 300,000 Chinook salmon returned to the river to spawn. Even following the construction of **Shasta Dam** in 1945, the fishery stabilized into long-term renewability. Tens of thousands of people along the West Coast interacted with this resource, including commercial fishermen, processors, tackle shop owners, chefs, retailers, and recreational anglers. The ocean fishing season traditionally ran from late-winter to late-fall. Recreational fishing was allowed in the bays and rivers, and the salmon still always came back. The highest Sacramento salmon return in recorded history was not long ago, in 2002 — a freakishly successful spawning event of almost 800,000 fish.

But when just 88,000 salmon returned in the



As salmon and halibut catches have declined precipitously, wholesaler and restaurateur Kenny Belov has turned to farm-raised trout.

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fall of 2007 the 2008 fishing season was closed for the first time ever. The next two spawning runs would be record low returns, and excepting a limited summer fishing season of 2010, ocean salmon fishing in the Bay Area has become a thing of the past.

Statistics on water removal from the Delta and official salmon return counts appear to tell just what happened. For fifteen years beginning in the early 1990s, water export rates increased slowly, then jumped abruptly between 1999 and 2002. Three years later — a time span that reflects the length of the life cycle of a Chinook salmon — the annual fish returns began to plummet. Still, southward water exports increased and in 2006 hit a record high of 6.2 million acre feet — two times the early 1990s rate of 3 million acre feet per year. Three years later, in 2009, the fall run salmon return hit a record low of 39,530 fish — one third the 122,000 spawning fish that the council considers the lowest sustainable spawning rate.

Next up will either be recovery or extinction. Although the Pacific Fishery Management Council predicted last February that 245,000 Chinooks would return this fall, the same modeling methodology was used in 2008 to predict a 2009 return of 121,000 salmon. But this methodology was thrown into widespread doubt when the 2009 numbers petered out at not even 40,000 fish. This season's actual fish numbers are still being tallied at several counting stations along the Sacramento and its tributaries and will not be officially released until sometime in December or January. At the **Coleman National Fish Hatchery** in Red Bluff, deputy project manager **Brett Galyean** gives a tentative and relatively promising synopsis. "I'd characterize this year as better than last," he said. "There are more fish in the river and I'd say we're on the upswing."

BELOV BELIEVES THAT THE ABUNDANCE OF FARM-RAISED SALMON IN THE LOCAL MARKETPLACE IS NOT HELPING — AND MIGHT BE HAMPERING — OUR SALMON'S RECOVERY.

In the absence of local wild Chinook, wild salmon from the Pacific Northwest, Canada, and Alaska appears regularly in stores and restaurants. So does farmed salmon from around the world. Salmon farming operations, usually associated with chemical use and thick clouds of parasites commonly called sea lice that thrive amidst the unnaturally high densities of caged fish, seem to have had a direct negative effect on wild salmon that live in surrounding waters. In the Broughton Archipelago of Vancouver Island, for example, several pink salmon runs have virtually vanished following the rise of the local salmon farming industry.

But executive chef **Devon Boisen** at **Spenger's Fresh Fish Grotto** in Berkeley keeps salmon on the menu year-round. He often buys Alaskan Chinook for top dollar — whole fish run $25 per pound wholesale — but when availability of wild salmon wanes he relies on British Columbian farmed fish to fill the gap. Boisen believes "a certain amount of misinformation" has given farmed salmon a bad rap.

"There are still people who come in and refuse to eat farmed fish, period," said Boisen, who has worked at the 120-year-old restaurant for the last three years. "They'd rather eat frozen wild than fresh farmed salmon."

But following the rage against Chilean farmed salmon that peaked several years ago as retailers announced they would stop buying the product, known to contain toxins and pollutants, Boisen says the hype against farmed seems to be dying.

Perhaps so far Belov has received a lukewarm response, at best, after he asked West Coast restaurants in 2008 to pledge never to serve farmed salmon again. The idea was to stick out the hard times together, boycott $4-per-pound farmed salmon, and demand that politicians and water managers work together to help restore California's wild salmon runs. Just two dozen restaurants took the pledge, Belov says, and wild salmon runs in the Central Valley continue to dwindle.

Belov acknowledges that Canadian and European open-ocean salmon farming does not directly impact local wild fish. But he believes that the abundance of farm-raised salmon in the local marketplace is not helping — and might be hampering — our salmon's recovery.

"Wild salmon need healthy rivers," he said. "Salmon are the bellwether of healthy rivers, and if farmed salmon is always available every day of the year at low cost, then people won't care about the health of rivers. They just won't get why it matters, because they're standing in line at the grocery store and they've got their salmon. But if the grocery store fish display case had no salmon and instead had a sign saying, 'Sorry, extinct' or 'Sorry, unavailable until we protect our rivers,' then people would get it."

As salmon teeter on the brink, government biologists estimate that rockfish populations in deep offshore waters may be slowly increasing. But whether this resource recovers or not, a new and developing fishery management plan could place it out of bounds of the small boat fishermen, like those from whom Belov buys. This year the Department of Commerce approved a plan from the Pacific Fishery Management Council to restructure the groundfish fishery on the West Coast into a system of individually owned quotas. The proposal would allocate 90 percent of the West Coast's total allowable annual catch of rockfish, sablefish, and other assorted bottom-dwelling species to 160 trawl net vessels, leaving just 10 percent of the allowed catch to roughly 1,000 small boat fishermen in Washington, Oregon, and California.

The argument for this plan, which is designed to take effect in January, is that individually owned quotas give every permit holder a valuable share in the resource and incentive to help preserve it. But opponents of the plan — who filed a lawsuit against the **Department of Commerce** on October 22 — say the system will lead to privatization of the coast's public resources.

One such opponent is **Mike Hudson**, a Berkeley-based fisherman who has survived the three-year absence of a significant salmon season by diversifying, targeting crab, albacore, and other local species. Hudson fears that the allotment of individually owned quotas will ultimately bar him from the water. "Because these quotas can be bought or sold, the people who will gradually buy them all up are the big processors," Hudson said. "One by one, they'll buy smaller guys out of business, and **Walmart, Costco, McDonald's**, and other corporations

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will eventually own the resource."

Of several dozen ports currently used by the groundfish fleet all but a handful — like Coos Bay and Newport in Oregon and the wharfs in the Columbia River mouth — might be abandoned if the fleet is consolidated through the individually owned quota system, said **Zeke Grader**, executive director of the **Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations** in San Francisco, which represents small boat fishermen.

"Groundfish are important for maintaining the infrastructure of these port communities, and local economies could collapse as the fishing industry becomes consolidated," he said. "This would be a job killer."

Grader says he hopes to see the plan fine-tuned such that only people who actively fish — and not off-the-water corporations — could own a quota.

Johnson of Monterey Fish Market, a thirty-year veteran of seafood wholesaling, concedes that the plan is intended to simplify the management and protection of the resource by giving all quota owners an incentive to preserve it. But he's not convinced. "They'll be giving most of those quotas back to the trawlers that first caused so many of the problems we have now," he said.

Johnson remembers when "rockfish was the driver" of the local commercial fishery. "That was the money maker," Johnson recalled. "It kept all the small boats on the water. We used to have three hundred small boats in the bay all fishing rockfish, salmon, and crab, and it had a tremendous positive impact on the local community. By the markets, people sold food, tackle, and beer. The wharf was vibrant. Now we have what, about five boats left?"

The bay's recreational party boat fleet has dwindled, too. In 1975, Erik Anfinson's father worked alongside more than 25 other boats in Fisherman's Wharf alone. Today, only seven of the boats still fish. Jim Smith Sr., who operates during the winter season out of Martinez, said the same thing has occurred in the East Bay. "Once there were thirty party boats fishing striped bass, and now there are four or five." In Berkeley, the ***New El Dorado 3*** began running white shark cage diving trips at the Farallon Islands several years ago. From the Emeryville marina the ***Superfish***, another fishing vessel, has also taken up white shark watching. In Sausalito, skipper of the ***Salty Lady* Roger Thomas** has fished for a living since 1968 but now runs whale watching trips on weekends.

"It's harder than ever now to make a living," Thomas said. "The king of the fisheries was salmon, but that's over."

Anfinson recently took a job on a cross-Bay commuter ferry. He also has diversified his Bass Tub business by hosting weddings, on-the-Bay parties, and ash dispersals at sea.

Sarah Sobell

Some of the stripers from a recent *Happy Hooker* outing.

THE DAY'S RECREATIONAL PARTY BOAT FLEET HAS DWINDLED. IN 1975, ERIK ANFINSON'S FATHER WORKED ALONGSIDE MORE THAN 25 OTHER BOATS IN FISHERMAN'S WHARF. TODAY, ONLY SEVEN STILL FISH.

"I need to make ends meet," he said. "Business is dying. It's not the glory days anymore."

In an April paper entitled "The Future of Pacific Island Fisheries," **Robert Gillett** and **Ian Cartwright** suggested that we might be on the brink of the end of fishing as we know it. By 2035, the authors write, open-ocean species, including yellowfin and bigeye tunas, will have experienced significant declines from their current reduced populations and that canned tuna will no longer be cheap. The authors also believe that coastal species and reef fishes will drop far below current population levels, due in part to "uncontrollable fishing effort."

The situation here in California may not be quite as dire. A 2009 article in **Science** coauthored by Professor **Ray Hilborn** of the **School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences** at the University of Washington reports that California's fisheries are among the least overfished in the world. "That report didn't get much press because media is all about doom and gloom today," Johnson of Monterey Fish Market said. "Relatively, we're in good shape. California still has some fish left, unlike a lot of developed parts of the world."

Mike Hudson also remains optimistic and even believes the Sacramento's severely injured salmon run will recover. "It depends on how we decide to manage our water flows, but I'm thinking there are good things for salmon in the next few years," he said. "Salmon are so resilient. They have such a short life cycle, so all we need is water in our rivers and we'll have a million fish again in just three years."

But to fishermen like the Smiths, the future of fishing is a more complicated network of possibilities. The son sees a potential future in sharks, but his dad is reluctant to go that way. "I don't want to fish sharks," his father said. "Striped bass and salmon have been my staple. Sharks are kind of like bottom of the barrel. But next season I might have to do it." ●

To share this story, type: ebx.ly/bayfisheries

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

CLUB MALLARD TAKES ITS FIGHT TO THE STREETS

A bar owner finds creative ways to appease his neighbors – including video documentation

By Rachel Swan

Shortly after 1 a.m. on one of the coldest nights of the year, **Mike Weidinger** slinked out of the **Club Mallard** on San Pablo and Washington avenues. Wearing a sweatshirt and hooded jacket, he hunkered down to avoid the wind. In his right hand he carried a small **Canon HD** camcorder. He aimed it at a few parked cars, walking up the first block of Washington Ave., then stopped at Madison and filmed the corner. Raindrops splattered down as he hiked up the next block and gathered more footage of parked cars. He paused again at Washington and Jackson Street, pointed his camera down at the concrete, turned around, and aimed at the two blocks below. Nothing. He pulled his hood up tighter.

"I hit the corner just to see where people are coming," Weidinger said. "If no one's walking up the street, I turn it off to save the battery." He flipped the switch on his camera and strolled jauntily back down the street. "People are always asking, 'Are you filming a documentary?' And we're like, 'Nah.'"

Actually, Weidinger and the other doormen at Club Mallard have amassed enough clips for a fairly substantial documentary about Washington Avenue — or rather, the ground on Washington Avenue, as seen between the hours of 9 p.m. and 2 a.m. For the past two months, they have dutifully walked the same two blocks every twenty minutes, three nights a week. That makes fifteen walks a night, all in sight on film. If you assume two minutes per walk, then Club Mallard has at least ninety hours worth of footage showing parked cars, dark street corners, and maybe the occasional pedestrian. It's all time- and date-stamped.

It wasn't his idea to make a documentary about the ground. Club Mallard's owner **Doug Miller** is responding to complaints from the neighborhood. Although the bar has been around for nearly a century, it's become a point of contention only in the past year, when neighbors started complaining about noise and litter. Miller responded by hiring an extra doorman and having his staff take regular walks along the premises. Two months ago he asked them to start videotaping the walks.

"Rumors were circulating that we were just blowing them off," Miller said. "I wanted a record that we were going out every thirty minutes, and that this is what we see. We're doing as much as we can."

The drama began earlier this year, when a couple residents began grousing to Albany police. Most complained about noise, said Albany's community engagement specialist **Karina Tindol**. People would leave the bar at 1 or 2 a.m. and talk on the way to their cars. Sometimes they would stand around and smoke a cigarette. Often they would park up the street from Club Mallard in residential areas of Madison or Washington avenues. A couple people griped about public urination. Some grumbled about trash. Some accused Club Mallard of creating a DUI problem, even though police records show that it's consistent with the city's average of one to two DUIs per bar per year. The club's most vocal antagonist, **Jordan Sampietro**, declined to speak to the *Express*, but his views are well-documented online. In a letter to the editor of **Albany Patch**, he cited "DUI crashes," "constant traffic," "loud noise," and — in the last two months — "videotaping, harassment." Miller's efforts to appease his neighbors may have backfired.

This wave of hostility is unprecedented in the Mallard's history. The bar served as a speakeasy during Prohibition. It was one in a long line of wall-to-wall nightclubs back when San Pablo Avenue was a red light district off the main highway. It predates any residential development in Albany by several decades. Miller bought the bar in 1994 and says he only received a couple complaints prior to 2010. "One was about noise, so we put air conditioning in, blocked out the windows, and soundproofed all the patios to keep noise from going into the neighborhood," he said. The other was about motorcycles, since the **East Bay Rats** used to hang out there.

Mike Weidinger outside Club Mallard. Rachel Swan

But in the past year, complaints have increased. Tindol responded by holding several community meetings, the first on July 8 with sixteen neighbors in attendance. She addressed them in a well-practiced, community-engagement-specialist fashion. "I was asking residents 'What was your experience?' 'What were some challenges you faced in that neighborhood?'" Tindol then encouraged them to keep "activity logs" to document any mayhem that could be associated with Club Mallard. But only three neighbors submitted logs on September 15, documenting the same complaints they'd kvetched about earlier.

In August, Tindol held a follow-up meeting, this time with Miller and bar manager **Nate Skelton** included in the proceedings. Miller agreed to distribute fliers in the bar asking patrons to be mindful of the neighborhood. He had Skelton post a message to that effect on Club Mallard's Facebook page. He'd already been doing the foot patrols for more than a year, but he began videotaping them. About a month ago one of the neighbors offered to chip in $100 for Miller to hire a private security force for one weekend, just to see if it helped ensure peace and quiet. Miller contributed an additional $200 out of pocket. But the extra security didn't help. That same weekend, a guy punched one of Miller's employees in the nose after being denied entry to the bar. It was one of only three assault and battery cases associated with the bar that year, but the extra security didn't prevent it. "There's not much difference between a guy in uniform and my guys," Miller said.

Albany police increased their checks of the area surrounding Club Mallard, clocking more than 370 patrols for 2010, up from ten to twenty in previous years. Even with the enhanced law enforcement, they saw no increase in assaults, break-ins, DUIs, or loitering. "So there was no evidence that Club Mallard was any higher than other bars in terms of illegal behavior," Miller said. The Traffic and Safety Commission also installed a speed meter on Washington Avenue, right by Sampietro's house. It showed that the average person's speed is 26-27 miles an hour, which wouldn't justify installing any type of mitigation.

But the flap has been an assault on Miller's pocketbook. Hiring an extra doorperson isn't a lot of skin off his back, since he can rotate personnel in his other bars, **Thalassa** in Berkeley and **Kona Club** in Oakland. That said, he's taken other hits: $900 for the Canon HD, $2,000 for new sensors and additional lighting, $250 for a pressure washer to clean gum off the sidewalk, $80 for the garbage can, $180 to remove dirt from a street tree and install decorative river rock, all in response to neighbor complaints. Add in the extra doorman and the labor cost of holding additional staff meetings. It's a lot of extra expense.

While Albany isn't known for political conservatism, it's definitely got a small town vibe. Property values are high, crime is low, and some people think you shouldn't have to lock your car up at night — even on Washington Avenue. "People want to have the warm neighborhood feel," Tindol said. "They feel like some of that is going away because there's more rental properties."

Even so, Tindol admitted that most of the complaints she's received have come from a single individual. Sampietro claims that the Mallard's video foot patrols add a new 'Big Brother-ish' dimension to the fight. He says it's not really a man vs. bar thing; he and his neighbors are "reasonable people, with reasonable requests," as he wrote in the Albany Patch.

At this point, though, it's too late for Mallard Enemy Number One to disentangle himself from the argument.

"You want to go talk to him?" Weidinger asked. "He lives right over there." Weidinger pointed to a cluster of neat, well-kept houses on Madison Street. Then he aimed his Canon HD back at the ground. ●

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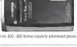

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First Friday

ART OPENINGS & EVENTS

See the Art Gallery listings in the Express for more information on East Bay art showings.

Spend an evening supporting local arts!

Some venues offering art openings and/or special events on First Friday, December 3rd

ALAMEDA

Frank Bette Center
1601 Paru St.

ALBANY

Gathering Tribes
1412 Solano Ave.

BERKELEY

Berkeley Art Museum
2626 Bancroft Way

Berkeley Potters Guild
731 Jones St.

Kala Gallery
2990 San Pablo Ave.

Urbanity
1887 Solano Ave

KENSINGTON

Nan Phelps Photography
398 Colusa Ave

OAKLAND

57th Street Gallery
5701 Telegraph Ave

21 Grand
416 25th St

Actual Café
6334 San Pablo Ave.

Awaken Café
414 14th St.

Bellevue Club
525 Bellevue Ave

Blank Space
6608 San Pablo Ave.

Bay Area Visual Arts Network
455 17th St.

Buzz Gallery
2318 Telegraph Ave

Café Van Kleef
1621 Telegraph Ave

Chandra Cerrito Gallery
25 Grand Ave

Clausen House
650 Grand Ave

The Compound Gallery
1167 65th St.

Creative Growth
355 24th St.

The Crucible's Cathedral Gallery
1615 Broadway

Five Ten Studio
831 Broadway Ave

Forthrite Gallery
5857 San Pablo Ave.

Front Gallery
35 Grand Ave

Great Wall of Oakland
Back wall on Grand Ave between Broadway and Valley

Hatch
492 23rd St.

Johansson Projects
2300 Telegraph Ave

Joyce Gordon Gallery
406 14th St.

Kuhl Frames + Art
412 22nd St.

The Layover
1517 Franklin St.

Lavende East
827 Washington St.

Lireille
3980 Piedmont Ave

LoBot Gallery
1800 Campbell St.

Luka's Taproom & Lounge
2221 Broadway

Mercury 20
475 25th St.

The Mean
447 25th St.

Oakopolis
447 25th St.

ProArts
150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza

Pro Arts @ Latham Square
1611 Telegraph Ave

RAW Gallery
1951 Telegraph Ave

Red Door Gallery
416 26th St.

Rock Paper Scissors Collective
2278 Telegraph Ave

Rooz Café
1918 Park Blvd

Rowan Morrison
330 40th St

SLATE Contemporary
4770 Telegraph Ave.

Smokey's Tangle
4709 Telegraph Ave

Somar Bar and Lounge
1727 Telegraph Ave

Spice Monkey Café and Restaurant
1628 Webster St

Studio Quercus
385 26th St

Swarm Studios & Gallery
560 2nd St

The Sweet(Art) Drawing Gallery
6602 San Pablo Ave

Tech Liminal
268 14th St

Temescal Arts Center
511 48th St.

Thelma Harris Art Gallery
5940 College Ave

UrbanSpace Gallery
811 Washington St.

SAN LEANDRO

Anna Edwards Gallery
237 East 14th St.

If you are an East Bay venue offering a First Friday evening art event, please email your information to Promotions@EastBayExpress.com to be included in the January directory

EAST BAY EXPRESS

EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS

Peralta Hacienda May Become History

The struggling historic site stages a benefit.

In the eleven years that **Holly Alonso** has been the director of **Peralta Hacienda Historical Park** (2465 34th Ave., Oakland) she's seen it go from an unused, undeveloped, and largely static historic site to a thriving, multifaceted museum-cum-community center that serves thousands of East Bay kids and mounts several exhibits annually. Now, she might see it shut its doors.

The park, which sits on six acres at the Fruitvale neighborhood's northern end, was once the center of a sprawling cattle ranch spanning an area that today includes seven East Bay cities. In the late 1970s, a community group organized to restore the site, and more than two decades of lobbying for recognition and funding later, the park opened to the public. In the past decade, under Alonso's leadership and with significant community buy-in, it has expanded its reach to include community gardens, art exhibits and cultural shows, a high school internship program, free afterschool and summer programs for neighborhood kids, and indoor and outdoor exhibits designed to illuminate the site's historical significance as the epicenter of the city's Californio settlements. It also showcases the ethnic groups that have since come to Fruitvale. In a neighborhood that once had Oakland's lowest per-capita open space and highest percentage of children, and at a site whose historical significance in California is analogous to the British Colonies on the East Coast, all of these various roles, Alonso said, are critical. "We call it a 'site of conscience,'" Alonso said. "Our mission is not just to illuminate the antiquarian side of history but also the community element. It's a community anchor."

Melissa Barnes

Vinhann Loch and Nina Corbett make corn-husk dolls at Peralta Hacienda

But recently, Peralta Hacienda has fallen victim to the twin challenges of a flagging philanthropic climate and a cash-strapped city government forced to drastically cut its arts and culture budget. While she was quick to emphasize her gratitude for the city's continued support, Alonso said the park has lost roughly 90 percent of its overall funding, going from $500,000 annually to $50,000 — about enough to pay for annual audits and utilities. Alonso has had to abandon several projects and let much of her staff go, and if the park can't raise about $140,000 within the next two months, it faces closure.

To that end, Peralta Hacienda is throwing a benefit called **Zorro by Night** on Thursday, December 2. Alonso said the Zorro theme is a nod to the Hacienda's history as a relic of the Spanish colonial era, as well as to the mythical hero's modern incarnation as "a symbol of the vitality of community." Along with a lecture by UC Berkeley professor **Alex Saragoza** about the myth of Zorro and its cultural implications, the event features live music, food and wine donated by local merchants; a photography exhibit about Zorro's real-life inspiration, Joaquin Murrieta; and screenings of Zorro movies of various time periods and genres, including the Eighties camp classic *Zorro, The Gay Blade* and the late-Nineties blockbuster. 6-9 p.m. $25-$10,000. 510-532-9142 or PeraltaHacienda.org.

— Ellen Cushing

To share this story, type: ebx.by/1/peraltahacienda

ATTRACTIONS

Photos with Santa St. Nick himself will be available for photos in the Mall's Center Court. Through Dec. 24. Varies. Bayfair Center, 15555 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-357-6000, ShopBayfair.com.

ZooLights With holiday-themed light installations and music all over the zoo's grounds. Dec. 3-Jan. 2. Free with zoo admission ($4.50-$7.50). Oakland Zoo, 9777 Golf Links Rd., Oakland. 510-632-9525, OaklandZoo.org.

FAIRS, FESTIVALS & FIESTAS

Piedmont Avenue Tree Lighting Ceremony and Holiday Stroll Tree-lighting ceremony featuring live music and an appearance by Santa Claus, after which merchants along Piedmont Avenue will be holding receptions and other special holiday events. Sat., Dec. 4, [illegible] p.m., free. Kay Rowle Plaza, 41st St. and Piedmont Ave., Oakland.

Berkeley Free Clinic Reception, Store Tour and Fundraiser Benefit With a light reception, store tour, and the opportunity to meet representatives from the Berkeley Free Clinic. Mon., Dec. 6, 5:30-7:30 p.m., free. Good Vibrations, 2504 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-8987. Reception, cash.

Christmas at Ardenwood Featuring various holiday activities, a cookie-baking contest, live music, and more at the historic farm. Dec. 4-5, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., free-$8. Ardenwood Historic Farm, 34600 Ardenwood Blvd., Fremont. 510-544-2797, EBParks.org/Parks/Ardenwood.

City of Oakland Holiday Tree-Lighting Ceremony Also featuring a toy drive, holiday refreshments, and performances by local children's choirs. Fri., Dec. 3, 5-8:30 p.m., free. Frank Ogawa Plaza, at 14th St. and Broadway, Oakland.

Community Festival of Light Family-oriented Hanukkah celebration featuring puppet shows, arts and crafts, live music, and more. Sun., Dec. 5, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Jewish Community Center of the East Bay, 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley. 510-848-0237, JCCEB.org.

Heyday Books Benefit A fund-raiser for the publishing company with food and drink, author appearances, a silent auction, and more. Wed., Dec. 1, 7:30 p.m., $25 donation. Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-848-3227, HillsideClub.org.

Holiday Crafts Fair With live music and local craftspeople selling handmade gifts, in addition to all the market's usual vendors. Starting Dec. 4. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Continues through Dec. 18, free. Berkeley Farmers' Market, Allston Way between Milvia St. and Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org.

Holiday Pottery Party and Sale With live music for the kids, pottery for sale, a raffle, crafts activities for kids, refreshments, and more. Sat., Dec. 4, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., free. Jered's Pottery, 2720 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. CloudWest.com.

Holiday Shopping Cart Tree Ceremony Watch the annual lighting of Bay Street's 35-foot-tall Christmas "tree," made entirely out of shopping carts, followed by ballet performances. Thu., Dec. 2, 6-8 p.m., free. Bay Street Mall, 5614 Bay St., Emeryville. BayStreetEmeryville.com.

International Body Music Mini-Fest Workshops An afternoon of workshops on various aspects of body music, taught by Keith Terry, James Harding, and others. Sat., Dec. 4, 10:30 a.m.-3:15 p.m., $60 each. Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 2020 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-644-2020, TheFreight.org.

Jack London Tree Lighting Ceremony Annual lighting of the Square's 55-foot fir. Fri., Dec. 3, 5:30-7:30 p.m., free. Jack London Square, 98 Broadway, Oakland.

On the 4th Day of Hanukkah, My True Love Sent Me A Book in Jail Reception and silent auction benefiting the Prisoners Literature Project. Sat., Dec. 4, 6-9 p.m., free. Rock Paper Scissors Collective, 2278 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-238-9171, RPSCollective.com.

RAC Holiday Arts Festival With vendor booths, an outdoor ... refreshments, live music, and more. Fri., Dec. 3, 7 p.m., Sat., Dec. 4, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., free. Richmond Art Center, 2540 Barrett Ave., Richmond. 510-620-6772, TheRichmondArtCenter.org.

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Christian Tetzlaff, *violin*
Bach's Complete Sonatas and Partitas for Solo Violin
Sat, Dec 4, 6 pm
Zellerbach Hall Prices start at $34

The holidays and glorious music always seem to go hand in hand. Of all the celebrated works written for the instrument, perhaps Bach's sonatas and partitas for solo violin (BWV 1001–1006) are the most wondrous. Brilliant German virtuoso Christian Tetzlaff brings his considerable musical integrity, insight, and technique to play in a remarkable marathon performance in two parts.

Program: J.S. Bach Sonatas Nos. 1–3
Partitas Nos. 1–3

There will be a dinner break between Parts I and II.
Part of the Koret Recital Series

Pomegranates & Figs:
A Feast of Jewish Music
Teslim with Kaila Flexer & Gari Hegedus
North End Klezmer Project
Sqwonk, bass clarinet duo
Sun, Dec 5, 3 pm
Zellerbach Hall Prices start at $20

A perfect way to celebrate Hanukkah, brought to you by the creators of the popular *Klezmer Mania!* From Winnipeg, the North End Klezmer Project features veterans from Finjan and adds a fresh, modern spin to its take on traditional klezmer music. Bass clarinet duo Sqwonk [illegible] And Bay Area favorite Teslim returns with Kaila Flexer and Gari Hegedus on violin and other strings, performing Sephardic and Eastern [illegible] compositions.

John McLaughlin & The 4th Dimension
with Étienne Mbappé, *bass*
Gary Husband, *keyboards & drums*
& Mark Mondesir, *drums*
Sat, Dec 11, 8 pm
Zellerbach Hall Prices start at $36

The leader's depth of feeling and technical wizardry draws the best from a magnificent group. —*The Evening Standard, London*

Grammy Award-winning guitar master John McLaughlin returns to Berkeley with his high energy quartet, The 4th Dimension, performing songs from their recent CD *To The One,* inspired by Coltrane's jazz masterpiece *A Love Supreme.* The new album brims with the exhilaration and intensity that has garnered McLaughlin legions of fans. The concert also features longtime favorites from the group's vast repertoire.

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PICKS

"Mathematics, Love, and Death"

On paper, UC Berkeley mathematics professor **Edward Frenkel** is your classic math nerd. He teaches multivariate calculus, boasts a CV that's several pages long and reads like a foreign language, sits on the editorial board of no fewer than seven mathematics journals, and is one of the world's foremost experts on the intersection of number theory, automorphic forms, and algebraic geometry. But on the side, he moonlights as — wait for it — an erotic film star. Frenkel co-directed, co-wrote, and stars in ***Rites of Love and Math,*** an abstract 26-minute meditation on "Truth and Beauty, Love and Death, Mathematics and Tattoo," which was inspired by the Japanese cult film ***Rite of Love and Death.*** On Wednesday, Dec. 1, both films screen at **Shattuck Cinemas** (2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley), followed by a question-and-answer session with Frenkel. 7 p.m., free. Passes available beforehand at East Bay Media Center (1939 Addison St., Berkeley) and night-of at the theater. 510-843-3699. — *Ellen Cushing*

Burning Libraries.

Burning Libraries: Stories From the New Ellis Island

Oakland's status as home to a diverse immigrant community is well documented, but perhaps never as dramatically as in the multimedia performance piece ***Burning Libraries,*** created by **Helen Stoltzfus** and **Albert Greenberg,** which sets thirty taped oral histories by Oakland elementary school students against dance, music, and aerial arts. The piece debuted to glowing reviews last month in San Francisco, and comes to the **Laney College Theater** (900 Fallon St., Oakland) for its final Bay Area showing Friday through Sunday, Dec. 3-5. Fri.-Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., $15-$25. 510-762-2000 or AlicePresents.com — *E.C.*

Jeremy Jack Basketball Tournament

A low-key high school tournament early in the season [illegible] basketball's [illegible] a heaping platter of hoops to kick off the holiday season. For the fifteenth annual **Jeremy Jack Invitational Basketball Tournament, Salesian High School** (2851 Salesian Ave., Richmond) hosts seven other Bay Area schools Wednesday through Saturday, Dec. 1-4, in a bandbox of a gym that puts spectators practically in the players' laps. The home Pride host Jesse Bethel on opening night, then play either the San Marin/Hayward High winner or loser, depending on how their game goes. Each of the teams is guaranteed three games, with the champions being crowned after Saturday night's contest. Check web site for full schedule. $5. Salesian.com — *Kibby Kleiman*

and fortune gifts for sale. Bring nonperishable food items for the Alameda County Food Bank and be entered in a raffle. Sat., Dec. 4, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., free. [illegible] 1402 Park St., Alameda.

Small Press Distribution's Year-End Open House, Booksale, Literary Scavenger Hunt and Bakeoff With readings, [illegible], literary scavenger hunt, discounted merchandise, and more. Sun., Dec. 5, 1-4 p.m., free. Small Press Distribution, 1341 Seventh St., Berkeley. 510-524-1668 x300, SmallPressDistribution.com

Snow? In Berkeley? With holiday crafts, a snow play area, and live music. Sun., Dec. 5, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., free. Andronico's Parking Lot, 1414 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-7061.

The [illegible] Foundation's Annual Holiday Auction and Community Celebration With an auction and Indonesian [illegible], the proceeds from which will benefit self-defense education programs at Studio Naga. Sun., Dec. 5, 4-8 p.m., $15-$30. Studio Naga Indonesian Martial Arts, [illegible] 5630 San Pablo Ave., Emeryville. 510-597-1042. StudioNaga.com.

World AIDS Day Commemoration Featuring performances by local musicians, a community barbecue, and health information. Wed., Dec. 1, 4-8 p.m., free. Allen Temple Baptist Church, 8501 International Blvd., Oakland.

KIDS

Hold the Clown The children's entertainer comes to the library for a puppet show, followed by face-painting. Tue., Dec. 7, 3:30-5 p.m., free. El Sobrante Library, 4191 Appian Way, El Sobrante. 510-374-3991. www.contra-costa.lib.ca.us/[illegible]

Chanukah and Family Kabbalat Shabbat With sing-alongs, a puppet show, songs, snacks, and other kids-oriented Hanukkah activities. Sat., Dec. 4, 4:30 p.m., $5 per child. Kehilla Community Synagogue, 1300 Grand Ave., Piedmont. 510-547-2424. KehillaSynagogue.org.

[illegible] Cinderella Production of the classic fairy tale featuring 22 puppets. Starting Dec. 4, Saturdays, Sundays, 2 & 4 p.m. Continues through Dec. 26. $12. Uptown Body & Fender, 401 26th St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]

Fabulous Food Webs Learn about the world's food web and the animals that populate it. For kids 3 to 8 years old. Sun., Dec. 5, 1-2:30 p.m., $5. Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center, 4901 Breakwater Ave., Hayward. 510-670-7270.

Hanukkah Celebration for Young Children [illegible] and Rabbi Bridget Wynne lead children 0-5 years old (and their parents) in a morning of songs, stories, menorah-lighting, and other holiday activities. Space is limited; please RSVP by calling 510-558-8148. Sat., Dec. 4, 10:30 a.m.-noon, free. Jewish Gateways, 409 Liberty St., El Cerrito.

Holiday Anime Faire Featuring Manga classes, gothic bags, a viewing lounge, [illegible], anime arts and crafts for sale, and more. See HolidayAnimeFaire.com for more details. Sat., Dec. 4, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., $8 for two people, plus some additional fees for any activity. Fremont Teen Center, 39770 Paseo Padre Parkway, Fremont. 510-494-4344.

Holidays at Dunsmuir With holiday activities including ice skating, carriage rides, tree-lighting ceremony, tea parties, and more. See web site for full schedule and prices. Starting Dec. 3. Fri., Dec. 3, 6-8 p.m., Saturdays, Sundays. Continues through Dec. 19. varies. Dunsmuir-Hellman Historic Estate, 2960 Peralta Oaks Ct., Oakland. Dunsmuir.org.

[illegible] Kids' Workshop A Berkeley Rep School of Theatre instructor leads kids 7-10 in a movement and theater workshop based on Berkeley Rep's new play. Limited to 50 students; register online at [illegible]. Tue., Dec. 7, 3 p.m., free. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., Albany.

[illegible] Reading from the children's book [illegible]. Thu., Dec. 2, 4 p.m., free. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley.

La Peña's [illegible] Class Showcase With performances by participants in several of La Peña's youth classes. Sun., Dec. 5, 7 p.m., $5. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Oakland Holiday Children's Parade Annual parade featuring local marching bands, giant balloons, an appearance by Santa Claus, and honorary Grand Marshal Mr. Steve from PBS Kids. Route runs from 11th and Washington to 20th and Broadway. See OaklandHolidayParade.com for more details. Sat., Dec. 4, 2 p.m., free. 12th and Broadway, 12th St. and Broadway, Oakland.

[illegible] Historic Railway Society Model Railroad Open House and Open Houses With HO-, O- and G-scale model railroads on display. Dec. 4-5, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., free. San Leandro Depot, 1302 Orchard St., San Leandro.

[illegible] Children's Art Studio Day by [illegible] Sat., Dec. 4, 1-3 p.m., free. MOCHA: Museum of Children's Art, 538 9th St., Oakland. 510-465-8770. MOCHA.org.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Beyt Tikkun Hanukkah Party Candle-lighting ceremony, singing, dancing, and more. Followed by Friday night Shabbat services, led by Rabbi Michael Lerner. Fri., Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m., free. First Congregational Church of Berkeley, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. 510-845-3889.

"Do You Look Like Your Dog?" Fashion Show Awards will be given for the best look-a-likes, funniest costume, best celebrity style, most original look, and more. All dogs will need to present current proof of vaccination. Proceeds from entrance fees go to United Media Productions, a nonprofit organization. Sat., Dec. 4, 3-5 p.m., $10 per person, $8 per dog, $15 per couple; [illegible] registration. [illegible] 4517 [illegible] St., Oakland.

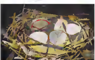
Hanukkah Celebration With latkes, a vegetarian potluck dinner, a candlelighting ceremony, and more, followed by celebration of the second night of Hanukkah. Please bring a menorah if you have one. Thu., Dec. 2, 6-8 p.m., free. Kehilla Community Synagogue, 1300 Grand Ave., Piedmont. 510-547-2424. KehillaSynagogue.org.

SPORTS-SPECTATOR

Golden State Warriors vs. [illegible] Thu., Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m., $10-$[illegible]. Oracle Arena, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-569-2121. Coliseum.com.

Submissions for calendar listings should be e-mailed to Calendar@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Calendar Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA, 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES


Portia Hein's *Take Five (Almost Half a Dozen)*

Romonce of the Two Kingdoms

Imagineering with Portia Hein and Rachel Davis.

The Abstract Expressionist William Baziotes described his pieces as "living in kingdoms of their own making." He meant it figuratively, but perhaps we all hanker for a realm of our own. Denis Dutton explains in *The Art Instinct* that across 80,000 generations of Pleistocene savanna life, mankind developed preferences for artifacts that allow us to "enter and participate in imagined worlds" that are universal and not culturally determined. You may remember Komar and Melamid's paintings of motifs listed by man-on-street focus groups, "44% blue landscape," peaceable kingdoms with Washington and wild fauna strolling at water's edge. Critic/philosopher Arthur Danto postulates that they depict the primal human paradise encoded in our genes. Perhaps so. Even such primate art theorists prefer scenic, semi-open (predator-unfriendly), well-watered camping spots.

Fantasies of cozy Kinkade gated communities aside, however, the idea of art as imaginary preserve makes sense. **Portia Hein** and **Rachel Davis**, here showing together, might concur. Hein is showing six oils and three mixed media works on paper dealing with Romantic/mythic motifs from nature — forest landscapes, trees, moons, birds. Titles like "Monarche," "Pastel Forest," and "Tree of Life" hint at her aspirations, while titles like "Starry Night" and "Sun Flower" testify naïvely to one artistic ancestor. Perfervid imitation is not her style, however; Hein's iconic evocations of nature are mediated by abstraction, memory, and painting process. Instead, Franz Marc (is the show's title ***Red, Yellow and Blue***, an allusion to the color symbolism of Blue Rider artists?), Georgia O'Keeffe, Marsden Hartley, Gordon Onslow Ford, and Lee Mullican come to mind. Hein's lighter side emerges in her mixed media works depicting totem animal birds, and in playful titles (e.g., "Little Birdie," "...Lovebirds"). Davis' ***Forbidden City*** paintings are more graphic in sensibility, though no less fanciful in mood. The adoptive mother of two Chinese orphans, Davis focuses here on the thousand-building Ming Dynasty center of imperial power, a soul-crushingly heavy pile in reality (at least before the Olympic makeover) that Davis adorns with fantastic foliage and clouds and thus renders weightless and lyrical. In "Middle Kingdom, Part One" (meaning China, of course), the entrance gate bedecked with Mao's portrait is supported by a vast crowd of floral trefoils and X-inscribed disks; do they symbolize for the people the eternal foundation for the state, or decorated renewable doormats? In "Middle Kingdom, Part Three," the human plants seem to protect the ceremonial buildings from encroaching clouds — but the sociopolitical symbolism, if it is even there, remains ambiguous, as it does in "Promise of a New Day," "Longevity," "In the Balance," and "Tradition #2." Through December 18 at **Traywick Contemporary** (895 Colusa Ave., Berkeley). 510-527-1214 or Traywick.com

— DeWitt Cheng

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ART GALLERIES

Gallery 4.20: Jingletown Holiday ArtWalk Artists' studios throughout the neighborhood will be open to the public all weekend. With an opening reception Fri., Dec. 3, 6 p.m. at Gallery 4.20. Visit Jingletown.org for a map and a list of participating artists. Fri., Dec. 3, 6-9 p.m., Dec. 4-5, and 420 Peterson St., Oakland.

54 Water Street: Uniforms Found art by Oakland students. Through Dec. 10. 54 Water Street, Oakland.

57th Street Gallery: The Art of Music and Words Work by artists including Walter Wayman, Walker Rhodes, and Lerelle Aber. Through Dec. 12. 5701 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-654-6074, 57thStreetGallery.com.

Actual Cafe: Untitled Landscape and portrait photographs by Gunter Duffy. Through Dec. 8. 6334 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. 510-653-6366, ActualCafe.com.

Artbeat Salon and Gallery: New Works on Paper Work by Alex Rosmarin. Through Jan. 10, 2011. 1687 Solano Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-3600, ArtbeatSalon.com.

Autobody Fine Art: Mark: Berkeley Object/Collaborator Photography by Gunter Fischer. Through Dec. 5. 1517 Park Street, Alameda.

Bedford Gallery: The California Scene: Real Deal Art 1933-1943 An exhibit celebrating the 75th anniversary of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Depression-era Works Progress Administration. Through Dec. 19. $5. 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-295-1417, BedfordGallery.org.

Berkeley Artisans Open Studios: Berkeley Artisans Holiday Open Studios Self-guided tour of of over 100 artisans' studios. Lists of all artisans and maps are available at 2547 Eighth Street, or online at BerkeleyArtisans.com. Weekends and Sundays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Continues through Dec. 19. free. 2547 Eighth St., #24 A, Berkeley.

Berkeley Potters' Guild: Berkeley Potters' Guild Annual Holiday Exhibition With potters and sculptors by 14 local artists. Through Dec. 24. free. 731 Jones St., Berkeley. 510-524-7031, www.berkeleypotters.com.

Berkeley Public Library, Central Branch: Photographs from Burma/Myanmar By Vaughn Rockholt. Through Dec. 30. 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100, BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

Frank Bette Center for the Arts: Open and Juried Group show. Through Dec. 22. free. **Digital Alchemy: An Exploration of Archetypes** Mixed media work by Deborah Gehl. Through Dec. 22. free. 1601 Paru St., Alameda. 510-523-6957, FrankBetteCenter.org.

Compadres Cafe: Creative Shoppe Original clothing and artwork by Paul Overholt. Through Dec. 3. 241 14th St., Oakland. 510-452-1984.

Cafe 2011 California: Historic Landmarks of Oakland California Watercolors by Heidi Wyckoff. Through Jan. 1, 2011. free. 1335 Peterson Park Way, Oakland.

Creative Wax a Black Bottom Gallery: First Friday Series Featuring work by Mark Bowers, Marcel Diallo, Cathinge Mann, and Ernest Oseihole. First Friday of every month, 8 p.m. 1030 Pine St., Oakland. 510-451-4861.

Creative Growth Art Center: Gallery Bazaar Creative Growth's annual holiday art show, featuring work by people with developmental and physical disabilities. With an opening reception and sale Fri., Dec. 3, 5 p.m.-8 p.m. Dec. 3-Jan. 14. 355 24th St., Oakland. 510-836-2340, CreativeGrowth.org.

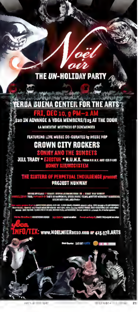
Cricket Engine Gallery II Gallery: California Work by Shelly Courneyer. Through Dec. 2. 499 Embarcadero, Oakland. 510-895-1929, CricketEngine.org.

Open: Gallery: Berkeley the Numbers Work by Chris Jordan. Through Jan. 7, 2011. 2250 Allston Way, Berkeley.

Dougherty Station Community Center: Livermore Art Association Winter Holiday Show With art in all media by 20 local artists. Through Dec. 17. 17011 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon.

El Cerrito Library: Photographs by Walter Welser Nature, flowers and landscapes by the Berkeley-based photographer. Through Jan. 6, 2011. 6510 Stockton Ave., El Cerrito. 510-526-7512, CCCLib.org.

Expressions Gallery: Winter Winter With art in various media, as well as handmade jewelry, scarves and more, by local artists. Through Jan. 2, 2011. 2035 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-644-4930, ExpressionsGallery.org.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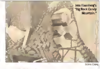
EAST BAY EXPRESS

PICKS

Some Re-Assembly Required


Jeff Eisenberg's "Big Rock Candy Mountain."

DeWitt Cheng

Jeff Eisenberg's new drawings ("Juju Abatement Program," "Big Rock Candy Mountain," "The Orange Plan," and "Kingdom Come") reprise the anti-utopian ad-hoc architecture for which he is known, mixtures of architecture, surroundings, and contents, all merged and by mad fixer-uppers, like human spiders or termites. In this show, he adds a sententious talking sculpture, "Tall Tales and Other Schemes" (remember the Singing Tree in *Three Amigos*?); digital monoprints for cutout sculptures of the punch/fold/insert tab type made in collaboration with Wabash University artist **Kristin Wilkins** ("House," "Ambrosia"); an installation of the unassembled sculptures ("Stump Mart"); and even a mixed media video game ("Stake Your Claim"). Eisenberg explores America's conflicting drives toward domestic comfort and nomadic betterment, our being "always on the make for a brighter, better future" — ready, in Twain's words, to "light out for the territories." ***Re-Assembly*** runs through December 5 at **Swarm Gallery** (560 2nd St., Oakland) 510-839-2787 or SwarmGallery.com. — *DeWitt Cheng*

[illegible] Art Gallery, Then and Now. New photography by Sue Ford, [illegible] and Bill [illegible]. With an artists' reception Fri., Dec. 3, 5 p.m.-8 p.m. Dec. 1-31. 1825 Stockton Ave., El Cerrito, [illegible].

[illegible] Center, [illegible]. Mixed media sculptures by [illegible]. Through Dec. 11. [illegible] Pl., Oakland. [illegible].

Hearst Art Gallery at Saint Mary's College, Master Hands: The New Art of Craft Featuring work by glassmakers, jewelry makers, quilters, and more. Through Dec. 12. $4. 1928 Saint Mary's Rd., Moraga. 925-631-4379. StMarysCA.edu/arts/hearst-art-gallery.

[illegible] Gallery, [illegible] Members Art Show With work in various media by [illegible] artists. [illegible]. Reception at Fri., Dec. 3, with the show continuing Through the Season Fri., Dec. 3, 7-8 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 4, 12 p.m.-6 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 5, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 2286 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-848-3227. [illegible]Club.org.

Institute of East Asian Studies, [illegible] [illegible] by [illegible]. Through [illegible] 4, 2011. Free. 2223 Fulton St., Berkeley. 510-643-6338. IEAS.berkeley.edu.

Johansson Projects, [illegible] Group show: Berkeley work by [illegible], Scott Greenwalt, [illegible], and Barry Underwood. With a First Friday reception Fri., Dec. 3, 5 p.m.-8 p.m. Through Dec. 18. **Dub By** Work by [illegible]. Through Jan. 8, 2011. 2300 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-9140. JohanssonProjects.com.

Joyce Gordon Gallery, Things Left Behind New work by Michael B. Platt. Through Dec. 31. 406 14th St., Oakland. 510-465-8928. JoyceGordonGallery.Wordpress.com.

Juan's Coffee & Tea Garden, Crafty New work by local artists. Through Dec. 31. 1223 Park St., Alameda. [illegible]. JuansTea.com.

Laney Members Gallery, Laney College, Save Our eARTh Show Featuring work by [illegible] of Andrew Singer [illegible] Eco-Art Matters show at Laney. With an opening reception Fri., Dec. 3, 4 p.m.-8 p.m. Dec. 3-15. 900 Fallon St., Oakland.

[illegible] Art L@ Taffy 2 Prints and posters by the local designer. Through Jan. 22, 2011. 482 23rd St., Oakland. [illegible].

La Peña Cultural Center, [illegible] by Juana Gomez Rodriguez Prints and digital drawings. Dec. 4-31. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

[illegible] Gallery, Nexus Exploring metalwork from members of the The Metal Arts Guild of San Francisco. Through Dec. 8. Free. [illegible] Piedmont Ave., Oakland.

Los Medanos College Art Gallery, LMC Revisited Exhibiting work by former Los Medanos College students. Through Dec. 9. 2700 East Leland Rd., Pittsburg. Info: 925-439-2181x325.

Mercury 20 Gallery, La Fe [illegible] and [illegible] by Cheryl Fielding. With receptions Fri., Dec. 3, 6 p.m.-9 p.m. and Fri., Jan. 7, 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Dec. 2-Jan. 29. **Mercury Multiples, Artist's Editions** Artist's Multiples by [illegible], Kathleen King, [illegible], and others. With opening receptions Fri., Dec. 3 and Fri., Jan. 7, both from 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Dec. 2-Jan. 29. 415 25th St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. Mercury20arts.com.

Mills College Art Museum, [illegible] Large scale sculptural installations and drawings by Kathryn Spence. Through Dec. 12. 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-430-2164.

Museum of Children's Art, As Above, So Below: Reflection in the Art and Poetry of Children from The [illegible] Collection With fifteen years worth of work by children participating in the Environmental Poetry and Art Contest. Dec. 1-Jan. 30. Free. 538 9th St., Oakland. 510-465-8770. MOCHA.org.

NIAD Art Center, Art from the Heart Featuring over 60 works by the center's artists and staff. With an opening reception and art sale Sat., Dec. 4, 2 p.m.-5 p.m. Through Dec. 30. Free. 551 23rd St., Richmond. 510-620-0290. NIADart.org.

Nielsen Art Gallery, [illegible] Photography by Kathryn [illegible]. Through Jan. 14, 2011. [illegible] Solano Ave., Berkeley. 510-525-8805. NielsenArts.com.

Oakland Public Library, Lakeview Branch, African American Quilt Guild With over 20 quilts on display. Dec. [illegible]-23. 550 El Embarcadero, Oakland. 510-238-1344. OaklandLibrary.org.

Old Crow Tattoo & Gallery, Fortunately Work by Josh Mays, Jordan [illegible], Amanda Lyon, and [illegible]. Through Dec. 5. 302 Grand Ave., Oakland. [illegible]. OldCrowTattoo.com.

[illegible] Open Studio and Holiday Sale With one-of-a-kind [illegible], sculpture, lighting, and [illegible] which is discounted. Sat., Dec. 4, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 11, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. 2680 [illegible] St., Oakland. [illegible].

[illegible] Fall Migration in Watercolor Paintings by Rita Sklar. Through Dec. 14. 1008 Oak View Ave., Kensington. 510-525-5350.

Pro Arts Gallery, Juried Show, 2011 Featuring work selected by the [illegible] curator [illegible]. With an opening reception Fri., Dec. 3, 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Through Jan. 14, 2011. **Oakland Art Night** Pro Arts extends its gallery hours in conjunction with Oakland's Art Night, First Friday of every month, 6-9 p.m. Free. Info@proartsgallery.org. 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland. 510-763-4361.

[illegible] Gallery, [illegible] Show New work by visual art students at the Oakland School for the Arts. With a spoken word performance and reception Sat., Dec. 4, 7 p.m.-9 p.m. Proceeds from the sale of artwork go to support OSA's visual art program. Dec. 3-5. Free. 20th St. at Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

[illegible] Members Gallery, Spaced Into The Sea New sculptures by Crystal Morey. With an opening reception Sat., Dec. 4, 7 p.m.-10 p.m. Dec. 4-Jan. 22. [illegible] 40th St., Oakland. 510-384-5344. [illegible].

Royal Nonesuch Gallery, [illegible] by Samantha [illegible] and [illegible]. With an opening reception Fri., Dec. 3, 7 p.m.-10 p.m. Dec. 3-Jan. 2. 4231 Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

Sacred Stop Tattoo/SAS Gallery, Twelve Paintings by [illegible]. Through Dec. 1. Free. **[illegible]** Work by [illegible] and [illegible]. Dec. 4-Feb. 1. 1729 University Ave., Berkeley. [illegible].

Studio Oakland, Faces [illegible] and sculpture by [illegible]. Through Dec. 6. **Stop & Go Stop Again** Stop-motion work by various local artists and [illegible]. Sat., Dec. 4, 8 p.m. $10. [illegible] 20th St., Oakland.

Swarm Studios + Gallery, Some Re-Assembly Required Drawings, video and installations by Jeff Eisenberg. Through Dec. 5. 560 2nd St., Oakland. 510-839-2787. SwarmGallery.com.

The [illegible], Oakland Selected and nature-inspired works by Peter [illegible] and Laura Zindel. Through Dec. 1. [illegible] Solano Ave., Berkeley. 510-528-5262. [illegible].

Trax Gallery, Objects for Domestic Use Ceramic work by Allegheny Meadows and Sam Harvey. Through Dec. 18. Free. 1812 5th St., Berkeley. 510-540-8720. TraxGallery.com.

Traywick Gallery, [illegible]: Forbidden City Abstract watercolors. Through Dec. 8. **[illegible]: Red, Yellow, Blue** Bauhaus-inspired paintings and drawings. Through Dec. 18. 895 Colusa Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-1214. Traywick.com.

UC Berkeley School of Journalism, Bad Day Out [illegible] photographs, by Stephen [illegible]. Through Jan. 10, 2011. 121 North Gate Hall #5860, Berkeley. 510-642-6000. Journalism.Berkeley.edu.

We Artspace, WorldWorks: Important Pressures Work by [illegible], Elizabeth Bernstein, [illegible], [illegible] Lucas, Jenna North and Erik Parra. With an opening reception Sun., Dec. 5, 2 p.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 5-Jan. 3. 788 [illegible] St., Oakland. WeArtSpace.com.

Wente Vineyards, Wente Winery Tasting Room, [illegible] by Larry [illegible] Paintings. With an artist's reception Sun., Dec. 12, 1 p.m.-3 p.m. Dec. 1-Jan. 31. Free. 5565 Tesla Rd., Livermore. 925-456-2305. WenteVineyards.com.

Wendy's Cafe, [illegible] Found art by [illegible]. Through Jan. 1, 2011. [illegible] Park Blvd., Oakland. [illegible]. WendysCafe.weebly.com/index.html ●

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7:30 PM ★ DOORS 5 PM ★ DJ 6:30 PM

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DREYER (DENMARK, 1918, 80 MINS) JUDITH ROSENBERG ON PIANO!

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THEATER & DANCE

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Reality in Greek

Jon Tracy presents the second installment of his *Odyssey*

Jon Tracy is Bay Area theater's equivalent to a celebrity auteur. He's quick, prolific, careful with words, a voracious reader, and a judicious editor. All of these qualities come into play in ***The Salt Plays***, a two-part Trojan War series that Tracy wrote and directed in collaboration with the **Shotgun Players**. The first installment, *In the Wound*, premiered at **John Hinkel Park** this summer, featuring a bulky cast of 35 — enough for a Greek army. That play followed the entire Trojan War from Odysseus' point of view, focusing on the events that seemed most important to Tracy. He read the text through a modern lens, extruding details and drawing connections to modern current events. His *Iliad* chronicled a journey, but it also looked at morality, gender roles, post-traumatic stress syndrome, and the psychology of war. "That all came through naturally," Tracy said. "The things that we're dealing with now are a different construction of what we've been dealing with forever."

Chapter 2 arrives this week, with a slimmer cast and a reversed gender ratio (six women and two men, as opposed to the five women and thirty men of *In the Wound*). Called ***Of the Earth***, it takes place in a liminal space between ancient Greece and World War II, which feels simultaneously contemporary and historical. As is often the case in Tracy's work, there's a nagging suggestion that perhaps none of this is real. Actors bang drums, swing from fifteen-foot poles, and speak in a way that helps bury their agendas. The whole thing could be an extension of Odysseus' mind, Tracy says. "There is a space that is cast about quite a bit in Part One called 'the Green Room,'" he explained. "It's a place that Odysseus sees in his head very often." This time around, audience members will enter the theater and see a big green room. It's purposefully disorienting. "There's a lot of decisions the audience has to make as to what the Green Room is, and how literal it is," Tracy said.

By blurring fantasy and reality, Tracy unburdens himself of the pressures that plague any reinterpreter of Greek texts. He can meditate on the theme of war without having to moralize. He can explore juicy plot points that only get glancing mentions in the source material. He can use sight gags, spectacular illusions, and modern technology to tell a story. Most importantly, he can introduce modern concepts of redemption and atonement, which might have seemed foreign to Greek society — where all things lay in the lap of the gods. "I've taken much license to create my own mythology," Tracy confessed, explaining that he feels no compunction about sending Greek myth through the filter of magical realism. "There's not any word-for-word extractions from the source," he said, "but the underlying ideas are all there. Some are obfuscated. Others are heightened." *Of the Earth* runs December 2 through January 16 at **The Ashby Stage** (1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley). $17-$30. ShotgunPlayers.org

— *Rachel Swan*

To share this story, type: ebx.ly/p/[illegible]

COMEDY

Banjo's All Star Comedy Show Featuring Mark Zhang, with Katie Hevek, Ben Feldman, Regina Stroup, Ryan McFadden and various special guests. Sat., Dec. 4, 7:30-9 p.m. $10, plus two-item minimum. Banjo's Comedy Lounge, 11113 Regional St., Dublin. 925-384-4413. BanjosComedy.com.

The Shotluck Featuring and [illegible] Sean Keane, Alex Koll, Rocky Belote, and Chris Garcia with rotating guests. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. $5. The Dark Room, 2263 Mission St., San Francisco. 415-401-7987. DarkRoomSF.com.

Comedy at the Layover Weekly stand-up with rotating comedians. Tuesdays, 8:30 p.m. free. The Layover, 1517 Franklin St., Oakland. 510-834-1517. OaklandLayover.com.

Comedy Open Mic Sign-ups at 5:30 p.m.; each comic gets 4-5 minutes. Mondays, 7 p.m. $5. Tommy T's Comedy Steakhouse, 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. 925-227-1800. TommyTs.com.

Craig Shoemaker Thu., Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 3, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 4, 7 & 9:30 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 5, 7 p.m. $20-$25 plus two-item minimum. Tommy T's Comedy Steakhouse, 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. 925-227-1800. TommyTs.com.

[illegible] Revue A show by Tom Anderson as part of the High Street Comedy series. Tue., Dec. 7, 7:30-9 p.m. $5-$15 sliding scale. High Street Station, 1303 High Street, Alameda.

Saturday Night Comedy with Ann Randolph, [illegible] Featuring a rotating lineup of other performers. Saturdays, 8 p.m. $10-$35 sliding scale, $50 [illegible]. The Marsh Berkeley at Gaia Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-644-4949. TheMarsh.org.

[illegible] Comedy A comedy showcase of [illegible]. First Saturday of every month, 8 p.m. $7-$10. Temescal Arts Center, 511 48th St., Oakland. 510-923-1074. TemescalArtsCenter.org.

[illegible] A variety/game show style MC battle and poetry slam hosted by Jamie Kennedy and Geoff [illegible]. First Thursday of every month, 8:30 p.m. $7-$10. Oakland Metro Opera House, 630 3rd St., Oakland. 510-763-1146. OaklandMetro.org.

[illegible] Stand-up and spoken word featuring Mateo Castro [illegible], Samuel [illegible], Marcus [illegible] and Rosa Alejandra Pinto. Thu., Dec. 2, 8 p.m. $12-$15. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

DANCE-PERFORMANCE

Ohlone College Dance: Dance Showcase Featuring hip-hop, modern, tap, and jazz performances. Dec. 2-4, 8 p.m. $10-$12. Smith Center, Ohlone College, 43600 Mission Blvd., Fremont. 510-659-6031.

Lahar: Festivity of Music & Movements An evening of Indian dance featuring the local performance group [illegible]. Sat., Dec. 4, 8 p.m. $12-$15. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

LIVE VARIETY

[illegible] A [illegible] hip-hop opera combining music of various genres, spoken word, and Taoist philosophy. Sat., Dec. 4, 8-10 p.m. $10-$15. Giorgi Gallery, 2911 Claremont Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-1228. GiorgiGallery.com.

The Mysterium Show combining various different types of magic, including bizarre, mentalism, and sleight-of-hand. Saturdays, 8:30-10:30 p.m. Continues through Dec. 11. $35. The Mysterium Theater, 1401 Webster Street, Alameda. 415-734-0470. MysteriumShow.com.

North Pole Revue Holiday-themed theater and comedy revue performed by the S.T.A.G.E. troupe and featuring music by Barrett Lindsay Steiner. Starting Dec. 3. Fridays, 7 p.m., Saturdays, 1 & 5 p.m., Sundays, 2 p.m. Continues through Dec. 12. $12-$15. [illegible] Center, 2590 Pleasant Hill Rd., Pleasant Hill.

[illegible] A [illegible] variety show featuring [illegible] of the [illegible]

PICKS

International Body Music Festival Concert

Most dance is performed to music; with body music the dancers are the music. Probably the earliest rhythmic accompaniment to human movement, body music encompasses flamenco clapping, hambone slapping, stepping, and countless other percussive innovations hailing from Mexico, Appalachia, Brazil, Turkey, and beyond. Experience the chest-whomping, toe-tapping, knee-slapping rhythm and motion at the **International Body Music Festival Mini Fest** at the **Freight & Salvage** (2020 Addison St., Berkeley) on Saturday, Dec. 4. With a curated roster of California- and Bay Area-based artists, including hambone master **Danny "Slapjazz" Barber**, stepper and former *STOMP* cast member **Khalid Freeman**, flamenco artist **Cerro Negro** and belly dancer **Elizabeth Strong**, the evening promises traditional, contemporary, and truly syncopated performances. The festival begins earlier in the day with workshops ($20 each) for teachers on integrating body music into creative, math, and language-arts programs — and why not teach kids to literally follow the beat of their own drummers? 8 p.m. $22.50-$23.50. 510-644-2020 or InternationalBodyMusicFestival.com — *Claudia Bauer*

Palomino

With a hard, steel face and a long, wiry frame that seems immense & changeable, **David Cale** is a compelling solo performer. He can play against age or gender, inhabit any body and reveal complexities of character in small ways — like a hand gesture. His writing works much the same way, favoring concise descriptions and an economy of detail. Such attributes come to bear in Cale's new one-man show ***Palomino***, about a Central Park carriage driver who falls into a lucrative side gig as a gigolo for well-heeled society matrons. Cale wrote, directed, and stars in the show, which is based partly on his Margaret Mead-ish exploration of the coachman industry in New York. He took up carriage driving for a month in order to research a part for a low-budget film, and found the job had a lot of unexpected perks. Cale managed to filter the experience into a ninety-minute script, told from several different points of view. Video projections by Rich Tabas show the treescape of Central Park, from a palomino's perspective. Through December 5 at **Aurora Theatre** (2081 Addison St., Berkeley). AuroraTheatre.org — *Rachel Swan*

Derique McGee

Mike Melnyk

The Play About the Naked Guy

We've caught **Impact Theatre** in a weird run of campy, gay-themed plays, which occasionally make the small Berkeley theater company seem more salacious than it really is. Fortunately, many of them are quite funny. Case in point: ***The Play About the Naked Guy***, a new slapstick farce by **David Bell**, in which a small Off Off Broadway acting troupe called the Integrity Players teams up with a slimy porn producer and two lackeys to mount a new glittery version of *The Passion of the Christ*. Quick-witted, zippy dialogue, well-choreographed dance sequences, and inter-scene pop music are the play's strengths. The actors vary in quality, and include a few who were plucked directly from the camp world — two graced Ray of Light's recent production of *Jerry Springer: The Opera*, while another did the Cockettes' *Pearl Over Shanghai*. Nonetheless, director **Evren Odcikin** picked a couple people with real verve. Monica Cappuccini, who plays the malevolent Mrs. Anderson, is the real star. She's a force. Through Dec. 11 at **La Val's Subterranean** (1834 Euclid Ave., Berkeley). $12-$20. ImpactTheatre.com — *R.S.*

dance group California [illegible]. Sat. Dec. 4, 1 p.m., free with zoo [illegible]. [illegible] Zoo, 9777 Golf Links Rd., Oakland, 510-632-9525, OaklandZoo.org.

THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

Burning Librarian: Theater from the New Fifth Island Multidisciplinary performance combining dance, spoken word, and music, and based on [illegible] from [illegible] and immigrant communities of Oakland. Directed by [illegible] with a score by Albert Greenberg. Dec. 3-4, 8 p.m. Sun., Dec. 5, 2 & 7 p.m., $15-$25 [illegible]. Laney College Theater, 900 Fallon St., Oakland. 510-464-3543.

Cinderella Enchanted Professional production of the Rodgers and Hammerstein classic musical directed by Elizabeth McKay and starring Broadway star [illegible] with [illegible]; see http://BerkeleyPlayhouse.org for full schedule of events. Saturdays, 2 & 7 p.m., Sundays, 12 & 5 p.m., Fridays, 7:30 p.m., Thu., Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m. Continues through Dec. 19. $15-$30. Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-8542. JuliaMorgan.org.

Disney's Cinderella Stage adaptation of the Disney film, performed by young actors from Pittsburg Community Theatre. Directed by David Ward. Starting Dec. 3. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m., Sundays, 2 p.m. Continues through Dec. 12. $7.50-$15. Rancho Medanos Jr. High School, 2301 Range Rd., Pittsburg.

[illegible]: True Tales of a [illegible] Player One-man show by Oakland native [illegible]. Saturdays, 8 p.m., Sundays, 7 p.m., Fri., Dec. 3, 8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 19. $20-$30 sliding scale. [illegible]. The Marsh Berkeley at Gaia Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-[illegible]. TheMarsh.org.

Holiday Theatre: A Long Winter's Tale Holiday-themed, audience-participatory improv show featuring actors from [illegible]. Thu., Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m., Fri., Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m. $5-$10. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. 925-[illegible]. www.PleasantonArtsFoundation.org/

Becoming Julia Morgan Play about the famous architect, written by Belinda Taylor, directed by Barbara Oliver and starring Jane [illegible] as Morgan. Tickets available at BrownPaperTickets.com or by calling 510-984-3864. Starting Dec. 3. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m., Sundays, 5 p.m. Continues through Jan. 9. $24-$30. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-7800. BerkeleyCityClub.com.

Scrooge: The Musical The Town Hall Theatre Company's annual holiday show, a musical retelling of Dickens' classic Christmas story *A Christmas Carol*. Directed by [illegible] and starring John [illegible] as Ebenezer Scrooge. Starting Dec. 3. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m., Saturdays, 3 p.m., Sundays, 2 & 7 p.m. Continues through Dec. 19. $12-$30. Town Hall Theatre, 3535 School St., Lafayette. 925-283-1557.

White Christmas A production of Irving Berlin's holiday musical. Directed by Marilyn Langbehn and choreographed by [illegible]. Featuring a talkback with the cast and director after the Nov. 27 and 28 evening shows. Fri., Dec. 3, 8 p.m., Sat., Dec. 4, 2:30 & 8 p.m., $30-$42. Lesher Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-[illegible]. LesherArtsCenter.org.

John Brown's Truth Improvised opera about the famous abolitionist. Written by William [illegible], directed by [illegible] and featuring singers, [illegible] and spoken-word artists including [illegible], Lewis Jordan, [illegible], and [illegible]. Sun., Dec. 5, 2:30 p.m., Sun., Dec. 12, 3:30 p.m., $10-$15. Live Oak Theater, 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-5580.

Loveland Solo comedy show written and performed by Ann Randolph, about a tragedy that befell [illegible]. Directed by Matt Roth. Fridays, 7 p.m., Saturdays, 8 p.m. [illegible] through Dec. 11. $20-$50. The Marsh Berkeley at Gaia Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-[illegible]. TheMarsh.org.

Of the Earth The second part of Shotgun's *In the Round*, performed earlier in the season. An adaptation of Homer's *The Iliad*, written and directed by Jon Tracy. Dec. 2-Jan. 9. $15-$30. Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-6500. ShotgunPlayers.org.

Palomino Bay Area premiere of a one-man drama written, directed by and starring David Cale. Through Dec. 5. Aurora Theatre, 2081 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-843-4822. AuroraTheatre.org.

The Play About the Naked Guy A satire of the theater business, written by David Bell, directed by Evren Odcikin, and produced and performed by the Impact Theatre company. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 11. $10-$20. La Val's Subterranean Theatre, 1834 Euclid Ave., Berkeley. 510-464-4468.

Staged Reading: The Duchess of Malfi Staged reading of the play by Shakespeare contemporary written by John Webster and directed by [illegible]. Mon., Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m. $6. Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-841-4824. [illegible]

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee production of the Tony Award-winning musical, written by William Finn and Rachel Sheinkin and directed by John [illegible]. Through Dec. 18. [illegible]. Masquers Playhouse, 105 Park Pl., Point Richmond. 510-232-4031. Masquers.org.

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Monday Dec 6, 10am — Dec 3-6

Annex Auction — Previews
Tuesday, Sep 7, 10am — Sep 5-8
Wednesday Sep 8, 10am

Fine Asian Art Auction — Previews
Tuesday, Dec 14, 10am — Dec 3-6, 11, 12, 14 and by appointment

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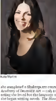
LECTURES & LIT

Making the Past Mysterious

Kate Morton's historical mysteries weave dark webs.

In a decrepit English castle, a pair of elderly twins nurse their mad sister, who was never the same again after being jilted during World War II. Also during the war, a thirteen-year-old girl was billeted in the castle in hopes of staying safe from German bombs. Fifty years later, a long-lost letter with the castle as its return address reaches that girl's grown daughter. In its puzzling lines, she begins to unravel her family's secret past.

That's the setup for Australian novelist **Kate Morton**'s new historical mystery, ***The Distant Hours***, which she will discuss at **Books Inc.** (1760 Fourth St., Berkeley) on Monday, December 6.



Kate Morton

Like the novel's characters, Morton grew up in a houseful of sisters. "When I was growing up, my sisters and I used to put on concerts," she said. "We made tickets to sell to Mum and Dad by perforating paper with the needle in a foot-operated antique Singer sewing machine."

Believing that her future lay in theater, she completed a Shakespeare course at London's Royal Academy of Dramatic Art — only to realize that it wasn't acting she loved but the language of the plays. That's when she began writing novels. *The House at Riverton* was an Australian bestseller in 2007. *The Forgotten Garden* was a *New York Times* bestseller last year. Both were named Book of the Year at their respective years' Australian Book Industry Awards.

"Drama training was excellent preparation for writing. I often find myself pulling the facial expressions I'm describing for my characters as I sit at the computer. Not a great look when I'm working in public," Morton confided.

Writing a book takes her about a year. "My favorite part of the process is the beginning, before I even write the first word. ... I spend a lot of time before I start the actual writing dreaming up my characters and plot. I read everything I can get my hands on around the subject so that the world of my story begins to take shape," Morton said.

The House at Riverton twines two stories set 75 years apart. In a stately lakeside home, a young poet commits suicide one night in 1924. In 1999, a very old lady harboring dark secrets is approached by a director who is making a film about the poet's suicide. Dark secrets also haunt *The Forgotten Garden*, in which a woman inherits a Cornish cottage, only to learn harrowing things about its former owners.

"I like to imagine that the story is already out there, that it happened to real people, and it's my job to uncover it rather than to make it up," Morton mused. "I scribble ideas that may come to nothing. I daydream about my characters. I fill my head with the world: atmosphere, aesthetic, music, smells, voices of the story I want to lose myself inside, and then, suddenly, all the disparate jigsaw pieces start to link up." 7 p.m., free. BooksInc.net.

— *Anneli Rufus*

To share this story, type: ebx.ly/katemorton

LECTURES

Activism, Sex, and Human Rights: The U.S. and East Bay 30 Years into the HIV Epidemic Including a screening of the documentary *Sex in an Epidemic*, followed by a panel discussion with local AIDS activists. Thu., Dec. 2, 5-7 p.m., free. Humanist Hall, 390 27th St., Oakland. 510-451-5818. [illegible]

[illegible] Masks: [illegible] and Porcelain: The Art of [illegible] and [illegible] Suzuki The director of the Clark Center for Japanese Art and Culture discusses [illegible] and bamboo art in conjunction with the BAM's *Flowers of the Four Seasons* exhibit. Sun., Dec. 5, 3 p.m., free-$10. Berkeley Art Museum, 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-642-0808, bampfa.berkeley.edu.

artIFACTS The monthly lecture series for collectors takes place after the Alameda Point Antiques and Collectibles Faire. First Sunday of every month, 3 p.m., $5-$7. [illegible] by the Bay Theater, [illegible] Naval Air Station, Alameda. 510-[illegible]. AuctionsbytheBay.com.

Adele E. Clarke, Laura Mamo, Jennifer Ruth Fosket, Janet K. Shim, and Jennifer Fishman: "Biomedicalization: Technoscience, Health, and Illness in the U.S." The editors of a new volume focused on the subject of "biomedicalization" discuss their work. Thu., Dec. 2, 6-7:30 p.m., free. University Press Books, 2430 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-548-0585. UniversityPressBooks.com.

China and the U.S.: The Emerging [illegible] Dawn Part of the Library's Political Affairs [illegible] group discussion series. Sat., Dec. 4, 11 a.m., free. [illegible] Library, 5205 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]

Katherine Wentworth Rinne: "The Waters of Rome: Aqueducts, Fountains, and the Birth of the Baroque City" Tue., Dec. 7, 5:30-7 p.m., free. University Press Books, 2430 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-548-0585. UniversityPressBooks.com.

Kecia Ali: "Marriage and Slavery in Early Islam" The feminist discusses her research in conversation with S. [illegible] Inamdar and Jason van Boom, followed by a question-and-answer session and book signing. Sat., Dec. 4, 6-7:30 p.m., $5-$[illegible]. Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California, 1433 Madison St., Oakland.

Matthew Passmore: "User-Generated Urbanism" The artist and designer speaks as part of the Berkeley Center for New Media's Art, Technology, and Culture Colloquium. Mon., Dec. 6, 7:30-9 p.m., free. Sutardja Dai Hall, Banatao Auditorium, Sutardja Dai Hall, Berkeley.

[illegible] Thu., Dec. 2, 6:30 p.m., free. Academy of Alameda, 401 Pacific Ave., Alameda. 510-748-4017. [illegible]

Sharon Danks: "Asphalt to Ecosystems" The green schoolyard expert and designer shares slides, speaks about her work, and signs her new book on the subject. Thu., Dec. 2, 7-8 p.m., free. Ecology Center, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-2220. EcologyCenter.org.

TEDxWomen Conference Viewing Party The conference, which explores the ways in which "women and girls are changing the world," will be streamed in its entirety. Tue., Dec. 7, 3:30-6:30 p.m., Wed., Dec. 8, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., free. Mills College [illegible], 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-430-2255. Mills.edu.

LITERARY EVENTS

[illegible] The UC Berkeley sociologist discusses some of her recent [illegible]. Thu., Dec. 2, 7 p.m., free. Revolution Books, 2425 Channing Way, Berkeley. 510-848-1196. www.revolutionbooks.org/

Bay Area Poets Coalition Open Reading For more information, e-mail poetalk (at) aol (dot) com. Sat., Dec. 4, 3-5 p.m., free. Strawberry Creek Lodge, 1320 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-845-8409.

Benjamin Griffin The associate editor of Mark Twain's recently released autobiography discusses the project. Tue., Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2087. MoesBooks.com.

Berkeley Book Club Reading and discussing *The World Peace Diet: Eating for Spiritual Health and Social Harmony* by Will Tuttle. First Monday of every month, 5 p.m.; First Thursday of every month, 5 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St.

PICKS

Kurt Beals, Rebecca Bella and Eric Selland

The latest book in the Two Lines series of literary translation ***Some Kind of Beautiful Signal*** features the work of **Kurt Beals**, **Rebecca Bella**, and **Eric Selland**. Meet them at **Mrs. Dalloway's** (2904 College Ave., Berkeley) on Thursday, Dec. 2 at a release party for the book, which also includes the work of more than 27 other international writers. Much of the writing has never before been translated into English. 7:30 p.m., free. MrsDalloways.com *— Anneli Rufus*

Gene Yang

East Bay cartoonist **Gene Yang** has been publishing comic books since 1996; he won the Xeric Grant for *Gordon Yamamoto and the King of Geeks* in 1997. His classic *American Born Chinese* was the first graphic novel ever to be nominated for a National Book Award. In UC Berkeley's **Doe Library** on Thursday, Dec. 2, Yang reads and discusses his work as this week's guest for **Story Hour in the Library**. 5 p.m., free. StoryHour.Berkeley.edu *— A.R.*

Gene Yang.

Christian Lander

What would peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwiches on Wonder Bread do without **Christian Lander**? He became an overnight success with the website on which he later based his first book, ***Stuff White People Like***. At **Pegasus Books** (2349 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley) on Friday, Dec. 3, he reads and shows images from his new work, ***Whiter Shades of Pale: The Stuff White People Like, Coast to Coast, From Seattle's Sweaters to Maine's Microbrews***. 7:30 p.m., free. PegasusBooks.com *— A.R.*

Benjamin Griffin

Berkeley's [illegible] ***The Autobiography of Mark Twain***, which truly is a never-before-published autobiography of Mark Twain, has become a runaway national bestseller. At **Moe's Books** (2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley) on Tuesday, Dec. 7, the book's associate editor **Benjamin Griffin** discusses this huge and hugely important volume, which Twain specified must remain unpublished for a hundred years after his death. 7:30 p.m., free. MoesBooks.com *— A.R.*

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Christian Lander The "Stuff White People Like" creator shares his new book, *Whiter Shades of Pale: The Stuff White People Like, Coast to Coast, from Seattle's Sweaters to Maine's Microbrews*. Fri., Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m., free. Pegasus Books Downtown, 2349 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-1320. PegasusBookstore.com.

[illegible] Poetry: A Feminist Reading Featuring speaker Elizabeth Sagaser, a PhD [illegible] in South and Southeast Asian Studies at UC Berkeley, [illegible] George Hart, the department's [illegible] chair. Thu., Dec. 2, [illegible] p.m., free. Center for South Asia Studies, 10 Stephens Hall, Berkeley. 510-642-3608.

First Person Singular: Beautiful Readings With local writers reading short stories. Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., free. Pegasus Books Downtown, 2349 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-1320. PegasusBookstore.com.

More Listings Online
Get info about dozens more literary events at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

Joan [illegible] Discussing her new memoir *Berkeley, Kugels, and [illegible]*: *My Search for Jewish [illegible] in France*, and sharing tastings of the book's [illegible]. Tue., Dec. 7, 6:30 p.m., $12. Kehilla Community Synagogue, 1300 Grand Ave., Piedmont. 510-547-2424. KehillaSynagogue.org.

Kate [illegible] Reading from her new novel, *Dream Hours*. Mon., Dec. 6, 7 p.m. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley.

Leonard Pitt Sharing his book of photography, *Paris: Journey Through Time*. Wed., Dec. 1, 7 p.m. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley.

Lucy [illegible] with Kim Stanley Robinson Discussing their [illegible], both of which are set in Antarctica. Thu., Dec. 2, 7 p.m. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley.

Lunch Poems: Kay Ryan The [illegible] U.S. Poet Laureate [illegible]. Thu., Dec. 2, 12:10 p.m., free. Morrison Room, 101 Doe Library, Berkeley. 510-642-0137.

[illegible]: The Future of Spanish [illegible] With Carlos Labbé, Andrés Felipe Solano and Carlos Yushimito, all recently named to Granta's list of Best of Young Spanish-Language Novelists, [illegible] with Daniel [illegible], visiting scholar at UC Berkeley's Center for Latin American Studies. Mon., Dec. 6, 4 p.m. [illegible] 370 Dwinelle Hall, Berkeley.

Pegasus Staff Reading and Celebration With readings and [illegible] by [illegible] from all three of Pegasus's stores. Refreshments will be served. Wed., Dec. 1, 7:30 p.m. Pegasus Books Downtown, 2349 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-1320. PegasusBookstore.com.

Release Party for Some Kind of Beautiful Signal A party for the new translation anthology, with editors Kurt Beals, Rebecca Bella, and Eric Selland. Thu., Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m. Mrs. Dalloway's, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

The [illegible] Great Group Discussing *Girl with a Pearl Earring* by Tracy Chevalier. First Thursday of every month, 7-8 p.m. El Sobrante Library, 4191 Appian Way, El Sobrante. 510-374-3991. [illegible]

Barbara [illegible] Reading from her new book, *River House*. [illegible], Dec. 7, 7 p.m. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland. 510-339-8210. GreatGoodPlaceforBooks.com.

Story Hour in the Library: Gene Yang The [illegible] reads from [illegible] work. Thu., Dec. 2, 5-6 p.m., free. [illegible] 101 Doe Library, Berkeley. 510-642-0137.

[illegible] Lynch: Berkeley [illegible]'s "A Christmas Memory" With holiday refreshments. Sun., Dec. 5, 4 p.m., free. Mrs. Dalloway's, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

PUBLIC INTEREST

Basics of Lead-Safe Painting and [illegible] Group Class For homeowners helping to make home repairs safely. Sat., Dec. 4, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Ecology Center, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-2220. EcologyCenter.org.

[illegible] [illegible] discussion about the worth, [illegible] plants and [illegible] and the ways in which their use and production have affected culture. Saturdays, 1:30-3 p.m. Long Haul, 3124 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-540-0751.

Living on a Fixed Income Workshop for older adults and their caregivers about how to live within a fixed budget. Led by Peggy [illegible], Education Specialist with Money Management International. Wed., Dec. 1, 1:30-3 p.m., free. Union City Library, 34007 Alvarado-Niles Rd., Union City. 510-745-1464. ACLibrary.org.

Nonpartisan and Political: The League in Action An installment of the League of Women Voters monthly roundtable, with a discussion focus on how the League chooses and analyzes the political and public policy issues on which it [illegible]. [illegible], Dec. [illegible], 7:30 p.m., free. Redwood Heights Community Center, 3883 Aliso Ave., Oakland.

[illegible]: an American-[illegible] With a [illegible] followed by a performance by [illegible]. All proceeds go [illegible] in the West Bank. Sat., Dec. 4, 6:30 p.m. [illegible] Berkeley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 1924 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-841-4824, [illegible]

SPOKEN WORD

First Thursdays A monthly open mic with featured readers and/or a [illegible] poet. First Thursday of every month, 7-9 p.m. Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-526-3720. ACLibrary.org.

Open Mic Sign-up @ 7:20 p.m. First and Third Tuesday of every month, 8 p.m., $3-$5 suggested. [illegible] Lounge, Lower Sproul Plaza, Berkeley. 510-693-1586.

Poetry [illegible] A twice-monthly open mic with featured readers, hosted by poetry ensemble [illegible] Garden. First and Third Tuesday of every month, 7:30-9 p.m., free. World Ground Cafe, 3726 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-482-3830. WorldGroundCafe.com.

Thursday at [illegible] A weekly [illegible] word and poetry gathering. Thursdays, 8 p.m., free. [illegible] Mediterraneum Cafe, 2475 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-1128.

Works in Progress [illegible] women's open mic with [illegible] poets. Sign up between 7 and 7:29 p.m. for 5-8 minutes of performing time. First Tuesday of every month, 7:30-9:45 p.m. $5 admission [illegible]. 510-276-0373. [illegible] Women's Cultural Arts Club, 1650 [illegible] Blvd., Oakland. 510-338-1332.

[illegible] Word Art [illegible] and [illegible] Night All presenters [illegible] for guest speakers [illegible] 3-8 minutes to tell their stories [illegible]. Singing begins @ 6:15. First and Third Friday of every month, 6:30 p.m. [illegible] Cafe [illegible], San Leandro. 510-356-9904.

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BODY&SOUL

Breathing Under the Christmas Tree with Mary Elyn Bahlert

Reduce holiday stress the multi-faith meditative way

Mary Elyn Bahlert

The table looks festive, but Uncle Joe has polished off a bottle of Merlot, Aunt Jen is mocking Mom's weight, and Dad just called your fiancé "Fatty." Cue the holiday soundtrack. Cue the stress.

Mary Elyn Bahlert knows how to tune it down. At **Lake Merritt United Methodist Church** (1255 First Ave., Oakland) where she's the pastor, Bahlert hosts an open-to-the-public workshop on Saturday, December 4. Titled "**Slow Down: Welcome the Holidays With a Gentle Spirit**," the workshop features strategies for doing exactly that, no matter which holidays you celebrate.

"People get upset about expectations at this time of year," Bahlert said. "Everything on their to-do lists weighs them down. And the holidays will be even harder than usual this year because of the dire financial situation so many people are in."

During the workshop, each participant will be invited to "tell as much as they feel comfortable telling about their situation, then deciding what their personal intention is for the holidays." By "intention," Bahlert means a goal or ideal, such as "calmness" or "making healthy choices" or "being kind to myself."

Stating such goals in the peace and quiet of a church classroom is all well and good, but following through on them is the hard part. The workshop will feature meditative and physical techniques for grounding and centering, drawn from spiritual practices around the world.

"To me, spirituality is not separate from the body," said Bahlert, a spiritual coach whose own path has been influenced by Buddhism, Hinduism, and Christian mysticism. "Even simple breathwork can help you come back to yourself. I did that just this morning in the dentist's chair.

"When you're grounded in your body, you can make choices from there — but unfortunately, we live in a culture where we've learned to separate from our bodies. You can see this on the street in the way people walk, but there's a wisdom in our bodies. We just need to learn to find it."

The workshop is not intended specifically for Christians or any other group. Bahlert's background has given her "an appreciation of the universality of spiritual practice and understanding, as well as my soul's call to teach," although "my own transformation began when I began to walk with Jesus."

Part of that transformation involves social action. A Berkeley Theological Union alumna, Bahlert is proud of her church's diverse congregation and activities such as an annual free Thanksgiving dinner served to hundreds of needy people. "I'm a follower of Jesus, and social action and spirituality have always gone together for me. There is a tradition for this, and it's sad that most Americans don't know that there are people out here who call themselves Christians who want to do good work on behalf of the world and are progressive.

"I came out of the Sixties culture and feminism," she said. "That's what I was thinking about when I decided to become ordained. For me, it really was about changing the world." 9 a.m., $50. LakeMerrittUMC.org

— *Anneli Rufus*

To share this story, type: ebx.ly/bahlert

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Gentle Sweets, Holiday Treats [illegible] College natural chef [illegible] shares [illegible] and samples of nutritious alternatives to holiday treats. Free. Dec. 7, 6:30-8:30 p.m. [illegible] College, [illegible] St., Berkeley. 510-845-7042, [illegible]College.org.

Cancer Survivorship 101 A workshop focusing on emotional and physical recovery after cancer diagnosis and treatment. With [illegible] at John Muir Cancer Institute and a cancer survivor. Reservations required: call 925-933-0107. Tue. Dec. 7, 6-8 p.m. Free. Cancer Support Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. 925-933-0107.

Free Health [illegible] Series: Chronic Fatigue, Fibromyalgia & General Pain [illegible] about [illegible] Chinese medicine to combat pain and fatigue. With Dr. John Nieters, L.Ac. and Tracy Zollinger, L.Ac. Reservations suggested: 510-524-0900. Sun. Dec. 5, 10 a.m. noon. Free. Rhythmix Cultural Works, 2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda. 510-865-5060, Rhythmix.org.

5, 3-7 p.m. $150-$600. Angel Light [illegible] 3047 [illegible] Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley.

Listen to the Stress Spoken-word performance by [illegible], followed by a "relaxing [illegible]." Dec. 7, 6:30-8 p.m. Oakland Public Library, Lakeview Branch, 550 El Embarcadero. [illegible] 510-238-7344. OaklandLibrary.org.

Sharon Weller: "Into the Mystery: Presence at End-of-Life" The hospice chaplain explores attitudes toward death and dying through lecture, movement, and [illegible] Wed. Dec. 1, 7:30-9 p.m. Free. Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. [illegible]

Slow Down: Welcome the Holidays With a Gentle Spirit Workshop focusing on constructive ways to contend with the stress of the holidays. Sat. Dec. 4, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. $50. Lake Merritt United Methodist Center, 1330 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland. 510-465-4793, LakeMerrittUMC.org.

Unlearning [illegible] Workshop led by [illegible] designed to help participants understand and [illegible] the [illegible] of [illegible] in their daily lives. Fri. Dec. 3, [illegible] p.m., Sat. Dec. 4, [illegible] p.m., Sun. Dec. 5, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. $175-$515. [illegible] Training Center, 2311 [illegible] St., Berkeley.

PERSONAL GROWTH

Angel Reiki I and II Introduction to the Japanese healing technique, with a beginner (Sat. Dec. 4, $150) and intermediate (Sun. Dec. 5, $250) class to be taken [illegible]. At Alameda, Alameda. Call 510-[illegible] to RSVP. Sat. Dec. 4, 3:30-7:30 p.m., Sun. Dec.

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

Advent Sunday [illegible] Learn more about Christ's teachings with [illegible] every day of the month. Through Dec. 19, 8:30 a.m., free. Center of Light [illegible] 2944 79th Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible]

Community Menorah Lighting Traditional ceremony led by Chabad of the East Bay, followed by an evening of Hanukkah activities including face-painting and a sing-along. Sun. Dec. 5, 4-6 p.m., free. Bay Street Mall, 5616 Bay St., Emeryville. BayStreetEmeryville.com.

Hanukkah for Adults Choose from four lectures exploring [illegible] aspects of the holiday, followed by food and drink. 21+. Thu. Dec. 2, 7 p.m. Free. Jewish Community Center of the East Bay, 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley. 510-848-0237, JCCEB.org.

Introduction to Meditation and Christian Mysticism A six-week course focusing on subjects like [illegible], meditation, and more. Wednesdays, 7:30-9 p.m. Continues through Dec. 1, free. Center of Light [illegible], 2944 79th Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible]

Road to [illegible] Manifesting Goodness Through the Teachings of Ifa Series of five classes about the West African spiritual [illegible]. No prior knowledge or experience necessary; each class limited to 30 participants. Every other Friday, 6:30-8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 17. $17 per class or $4 [illegible]. East Bay Healing Collective, [illegible] Ave., Berkeley.

[illegible] Religious [illegible] Lay Education [illegible] An overview of the basic tenets and traditions of the world's primary religions, led by [illegible], director of Christian education at City of Refuge United Church of Christ in San Francisco. To register, call 510-849-[illegible]. Sat. Dec. 4, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Pacific School of Religion, 1798 Scenic Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-8200, PSR.edu. ■

PICKS

Adult Chanukah

Chanukah is often dismissed as a "children's holiday," as if only kids enjoy candle-lighting and gift exchanges. At **Jewish Gateways** (419 Liberty St., El Cerrito) on Thursday, Dec. 2, **Chanukah for Adults** reels in the Festival of Lights for over-21s with a grown-up menorah lighting and discussions of holiday mysticism, multi-faith family holidays, and more, followed by chocolate and wine. 7 p.m., free. JewishGateways.org. — *Anneli Rufus*

"Ritual Place" Symposium

What creates sacred space? Speakers at the **Ritual Place symposium** at UC Berkeley's **Alumni House** on Friday, Dec. 3, include **Brian Nagata** of the Society for the Promotion of Buddhism; Yale professor **Koichi Shinohara**, author of *Dharma, Image, Miracles and Mandala Bible Here*; and Harvard professor **James Robson**, whose book *Power of Place* is about Hengshan, one of Taoism's five "sacred mountains." 2:30 p.m., free. BuddhistStudies.Berkeley.edu. — *A.R.*

Family Chanukah Celebration

Cantor, soloist, and composer **Elana Jagoda**, who revamps traditional Jewish songs to give them a lively modern folk-rock vibe, performs at the **Jewish Community Center of the East Bay**'s (1414 Walnut St., Berkeley) **Chanukah celebration** on Sunday, Dec. 5. Other activities for the family include Chanukah-themed arts and crafts projects, storytelling, latke frying, and puppet shows and storytelling for children. 10 a.m., free. JCCEastBay.org. — *A.R.*

Dreidels

Chronic Pain/Chronic Fatigue Seminar

Once chronic pain or chronic exhaustion become part of your life, you realize how fortunate you used to be. At **Rhythmix Cultural Works** (2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda) on Sunday, Dec. 5, East Bay acupuncturists **John Nieters** and **Tracy Zollinger** present a seminar on how traditional Chinese medicine can alleviate and even prevent chronic fatigue, fibromyalgia, and other painful and life-draining conditions. 10 a.m., free. AlamedaAcupuncture.com. — *A.R.*

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Pictured: Three [illegible] Birds by Suzanne Conway

AQUARIUM AGE

SCIENCE NON-FICTION

For the week of December 1-7 2010

By Rafiee Finn

Tweets go a-twitter this week, as does every other form of communication technology — and it's not a software problem. It isn't even a hardware problem unless you're tempted to throw your cell phone, laptop or other electronic device against the wall in a fit of frustration. We are in the midst of an astral static storm. Uranus goes Direct on December 5, and Mercury goes Retrograde on December 10. As Uranus accelerates and Mercury decelerates, the choreography of daily life is certain to grow increasingly complex. It might just make you crazy. For the next two weeks at least, you'll want to take as many moments and deep breaths as possible. You have complete permission put your hands on your head and make the **Edvard Munch** "Scream" face. It is a techno-nightmare. But don't get lost in unnecessary anxiety: we've been through much more difficult planetary patterns (all of 2010) and lived to tell about it. Remembering the spirit of the season is the best way to handle the various breakdowns, animate or inanimate. Do your best to be of good cheer, and your good attitude will have a positive influence.

Uranus Direct tends to have a dramatic effect. People often complain about not being able to sleep, or that vivid dreams make it impossible to really rest. Either way, you wake up tired. Several days prior to the "turn around," as well as several days after its forward motion commences, Uranus will "pivot" on the same degree. That rotation has a peculiar signature, which manifests as an uncertain or uneven rhythm. Regular routines unfold at an erratic pace. One moment the world seems as if it is whizzing by, and the next the seconds feel as if they are trapped in slow motion.

Just as Uranus Direct gains momentum, Mercury Retrograde kicks into gear. And while they do not collide, attempts to mesh the Uranian "full speed ahead, Lt. Sulu" with the Mercurial "do me rewind" could result in psychic whiplash. Mercury Retrograde doesn't begin until the morning of December 10, but we will start to feel its effects by Monday or Tuesday. For those of you new to Mercury Retrograde (or who scoff at the idea of such a thing), here's the skinny: Mercury symbolizes all things related to communication and travel, which means that when Mercury appears to be moving "backwards" (which we know is impossible), many things related to communication and travel seem to go backward with it (which we know from experience is completely probable). So back up your hard drive now, while the "backing" is good. Pay your parking tickets. Buy your holiday electronics early. And expect the normal year-end review to be even more detailed than it normally is.

Both Mercury and Uranus have dominion over the technological cosmos, and when their "normal" patterns are disturbed, so are their subjects. But don't throw that printer out just yet. Give the universe of ones and zeros a chance to find its stride before you dispose of something you might need later. I could end this week's column with "be kind to your machines," but you might think I was taking that compassion thing just a little too far. **Isaac Asimov** wouldn't.

If you know your Ascendant and/or your Moon Sign, read that, too.

ARIES All indications point toward your career, so try not to be distracted by unnecessary drama that could interfere with your plans. Stick to your agenda, but also be willing to be flexible when appropriate.

TAURUS Instead of worrying about being swept away by your appetites, indulge them, if just for a moment. Enjoy the pleasures of life — eat, drink, be merry, and acknowledge your innately sensual temperament.

GEMINI Silence is a necessary component of mental health. And while you probably won't find the external quiet you are craving, you could create an internal calm that would be just as restorative.

CANCER Rather than take on the challenge of a new project, devote yourself to tying up loose ends. Finishing and resolving what's already in motion will provide a keen sense of accomplishment.

LEO There is no need to apologize for your ambition and determination to succeed. But there is also no need to employ ruthless methods. Be generous of heart, and that generosity will be returned.

VIRGO Persistent relationship issues will begin to resolve, but only if you acknowledge and confront your needs directly. Be honest with yourself, and you'll find a wholesome solution.

LIBRA The solution is simple, but actualizing it requires discipline and a sincere desire to change. Show up. Stay in the moment. Speak your truth. Stay undisturbed by the outcome.

SCORPIO Continue to lead with your innate creativity, and that attitude will help you in a multitude of ways. Whether it's love, money, or consciousness raising, grace is guiding your way.

SAGITTARIUS Pay attention to the financial details, but don't let them distract you from the big picture. Putting your finances in order will free up lots of creative energy.

CAPRICORN You are thinking, and thinking long and hard, about several key themes and issues. Don't be afraid to go deep — the more you delve, the richer the process.

AQUARIUS The most important piece of the next several weeks is to trust your intuition. Not every hunch will pay off, but that's not the point. Learning to listen will build internal strength.

PISCES Find a comfortable rhythm and let it determine your external pace. Not every situation will unfold as you wish, but that doesn't matter. What's important is your ability to cope with strength and grace. ●

To share this story, type: ebx.ly/aquarium

For More Info

Rafiee Finn specializes in Transformational Astrology. For readings, call 1-888-937-9284, write P.O. Box 343, New York, NY 10025, visit AquariumAge.com, or e-mail Rafiee@AquariumAge.com. Copyright © 2010 by Rafiee Finn

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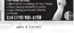

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FOOD & DRINK

The afritada, with its huge potato chunks atop faux-chicken hunks, is almost Italian. Chris Duffey

NO PORK, NO PROBLEM

No Worries' vegan Filipino food is quietly iconoclastic.

By Anneli Rufus

Taking the flesh out of Filipino food is like taking the raw out of sushi. But what if you'd never tasted sushi?

Our hundred percent vegan Filipino food, such as that served at **No Worries**, is highly anomalous: a *Star Trek* version of a cuisine that in its natural habitat is about 94 percent meat. Thus No Worries' soy pork menudo and soy beef bistek might disconcert those who have been fully immersed in the real Pinoy McCoy.

But if you're like most Americans, chances are you've barely even sampled Filipino food, whose obscurity compared to other Asian cuisines is pretty inexplicable, given that US history and Filipino history have been intimately entwined since the Spanish-American War in 1898.

But being an adobo virgin means being able to trek into a No Worries meal without needing to depressurize. No pork, no problem. No cultural reference, no culture shock.

"My target audience is neither the vegan community nor the Filipino community," said No Worries' chef/owner **Jay-Ar Isagani Pugao**. "My target audience is foodies — people who love food and who want to try something new."

How it is new to you depends on where you've been. For the **Jollibee** habitué, it's new because no animals were killed to make this soy fish sinigang. For those who think *balut* is what shoots from guns (and not the boiled embryo-containing egg and Filipino favorite that it actually is), Pugao's food is new because it tastes a little Asian and a little not. The slow-cooked tomato-sauced *afritada* with its tender doorknob-size potato chunks bridging a red bell pepper sweetness and black pepper heat perched atop large faux chicken hunks: Why, it's almost Italian.

Having moved to Oakland from the Philippines at age seven, Pugao "grew up in a house where my mom cooked every day and it was part of our tradition to eat together as a family." He was sixteen when his mother suffered a heart attack and began cooking lighter food for herself. But because the rest of the household still craved traditional food, she was cooking two different versions of every meal: one for the family and one for herself," said Pugao, who became a vegetarian so that his mother wouldn't have to eat her lighter fare alone.

"I wanted her to feel supported. Then I went ahead and started expanding and innovating some of these dishes on my own," he said. At nineteen, he gave up animal products altogether. By then he had already started a vegan Filipino catering business, having received a startup grant while still in high school.

Open since late October in a high-ceilinged space triangulated between Chinatown and downtown, the restaurant has a briefer menu than most. Yet what it lacks in quantity it overcomes in several kinds of quality. It's high in fiber, relatively low in fat. Even such a classically heavy dish as *kare-kare* — normally made with oxtails, anchovies, and lots of peanut butter — comes from Pugao's kitchen thick and rich yet somehow also bright and light. It's local: Pugao buys all of his produce and fake meat in Oakland, the latter from world-class flesh prestidigitator **Layonna**.

Served in brimming, heavy-bodied bowls, the consistently generous portions increase your chances of taking home leftovers and having two-meals-in-one of soy: the perfect golden broth and creamy-soft, subtly fruity chayote in Pugao's *tinola*, or his tamarind-sour, daikon-spunky *sinigang*.

"It's fun to search in my memories for how a dish tasted originally and attempt to re-create it" without what many would call its fundamentals, Pugao said. "People think Filipino food is very meat-laden, but its real foundation is its sauces. That's where the slow cooking comes into play."

He proves this with a vinegar-steeped *adobo*, its nearly-night-sky blackness lit by patent garlic "stars."

Perhaps a symptom of new-restaurant growing pains is a slight inconsistency in intensity. On one visit, some dishes were markedly saltier than others; our *pancit* — the Philippines' answer to chow mein — was curiously scant and plain and almost colorless, a sort of ghost *pancit*. On another visit, the seasonings were balanced and worthy of adoration.

The escabeche: a ragingly authentic-tasting faux fish — complete with eerie faux "skin" — swims in onions and tomatoes stewed soft and salsa-sweet. An iced glass of *melón* — fresh cantaloupe scraped with a special tool to make a thick, sweet, pulpy drink, commonly sold by street vendors in the Philippines — balanced the crunch of slender, deep-fried *lumpia* and the starchiness of *giniling*: a faintly sweet stir-fry of fresh peas, carrots, and ground "beef," emphasis on the "beef."

The extraordinarily high fake-meat-to-produce ratio in most dishes here is the real best thing about No Worries, at least for a certain subsector of the flesh-free community that remains mostly closeted, in shame: we who do not love vegetables.

Pugao's food is so homey, healthy, and filling — in a very good way — that the restaurant's ambience feels wrong: too cavernous, too cold. Obligatory exposed ceiling pipes, some walls sandalwood brown, some green tea green, no trace of softness to absorb a single decibel. We get it: hip. But the effect is rather like eating, in a burger joint, meals made by a grandma who loves you with all her heart. ●

No Worries

1442 Franklin St., Oakland.
510-444-4460 or
FilipinoVegetarianFood.com
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Sat. 5-8 p.m.
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Sample Menu

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RESTAURANTS & CAFES

This guide only lists restaurants reviewed or critiqued by Express food writers. You can find complete reviews for all of the restaurants at EastBayExpress.com. Our print listings rotate regularly as space allows. Our complete Dining Guide is available online, where it is searchable by neighborhood, cuisine, price and more. Price codes assume diners will order a main course and beverage, share appetizers and desserts, and tip adequately. $—up to $10 per person. $$—$10–$25. $$$—$25–$50. $$$$—more than $50.

ALAMEDA

Angelfish 863 Island Dr., Suite C-2, Alameda, 510-748-0408 (Japanese/Sushi) $$$

The Gardens 1313 Park St., Alameda, 510-769-9311 (Tapas/Small Plates) $

[illegible] 1477 Webster St., Alameda, 510-521-9080 (Mexican) $

Pappo 2320 Central Ave., Alameda, 510-337-9100 (California Cuisine) $$$

Speisekammer 2424 Lincoln Ave., Alameda, 510-522-1300 (German/Austrian) $$

Sushi King 1640 Park St., Alameda, 510-523-8638 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Yume Sushi 1428 Park St., Alameda, 510-865-7148 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Zen 2315 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, 510-521-7170 (Eclectic/Exotic/Asian Fusion/Chinese/Hawaiian/Indian/Japanese/Sushi/Korean/Thai/Seafood/Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

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ALBANY, KENSINGTON & BERKELEY-SOLANO

Cafe Raj 1158 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-526-5900 (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$

Gordo's 1300 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-526-8600 (Breakfast/Brunch/Deli/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Christopher's Berkeley Fancy Cafe 1815 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-528-1185 (Mexican/Southwestern) $-$$

[illegible] 1561 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Mexican/Nuevo Latino/Organic/Sustainable/South American/Tapas/Small Plates) $$-$$$

[illegible] Berkeley 1400 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-524-1240 (Indian, Pakistani) $

Jerusalem Organic Kitchen 1981 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-515-1486 (Middle Eastern/Organic/Sustainable) $

Lalime's 1329 Gilman St., Albany, 510-527-9838 (California Cuisine/French/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Meal Ticket 1235 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-6325 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

[illegible] 1530 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-2642 (California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$$

ANTIOCH, PITTSBURG & BRENTWOOD

[illegible] Custom Meats 5411 Lone Tree Way #110, Brentwood, 925-308-7397 (Barbecue/Deli) $

BERKELEY-DOWNTOWN

[illegible] Lounge 2120 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-3030 (Wine Bar/American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Cheeses/[illegible]) $$

Bistro Liaison 1849 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2155 (California Cuisine/French/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

[illegible] Cafe 2161 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-8011 (Breakfast/Deli/Latin American) $

Cafe Tibet 2020 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-1653 (Tibetan) $$

Chick-O-Pea's 1924 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-8800 (Middle Eastern) $

Cream 2399 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-0860 (Dessert/Ice Cream) $

The Crossroads 2415 Bowditch St., Berkeley, 510-643-8323 (Eclectic/Exotic) $

EZ Stop Deli 2233 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-3544 (Deli) $

Gelateria Naia 1193 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-1560 (Dessert/Ice Cream) $

Grab N Go 2168 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-540-5282 (Deli) $

Ippuku 2130 Center St., Berkeley, 510-665-1969 (Japanese/Sushi/Tapas/Small Plates/Organic/Sustainable/Wine Bar) $$$

Oscar's 1890 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2164 (American/Diner) $

Pie in the Sky 2178 Center St., Berkeley, 510-848-8014 (Pizza) $

[illegible] 1923 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-2148 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

The Saturn Cafe 2175 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-883-1585 (American) $$

[illegible] Kitchen 2058 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-3961 (Indian/Pakistani) $

[illegible] Cuisine 1918 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-9998 (Middle Eastern) $$

Udupi Palace 1901 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-6600 (Indian/Pakistani/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Zatar 1981 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-1981 (California Cuisine/Greek/Turkish/Middle Eastern/Organic/Sustainable/Tapas/Small Plates) $$-$$$

BERKELEY-NORTH

Cioccolata di Vino 1501 Shattuck Ave., Suite C, Berkeley, 510-868-1382 (Italian/Dessert/Ice Cream/Wine Bar) $$

[illegible] 1188 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-9004 (Italian) $$$

[illegible] Cafe 1843 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-516-8815 (Chinese/Indian/Pakistani/Tibetan) $-$$

Gregoire 2109 Cedar St., Berkeley, 510-883-1893 (French/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Imperial Tea Court 1511 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-8888 (Chinese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Meritage 41 Tunnel Rd., Berkeley, 510-549-8510 (American)

Northside Cafe 1878 Euclid Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-3683 (American) $

Philz Coffee 1600 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-705-1083 (Coffeehouses) $

BERKELEY-SOUTH

Flavors of India 2438 Sacramento St., Berkeley, 510-848-3844 (Indian/Pakistani/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Holy Land 2965 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-665-1672 (Middle Eastern) $

Ici 2948 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-665-6054 (Bakery/California Cuisine/Dessert/Ice Cream/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Manpuku 2977 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-1536 (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$

[illegible] Indian Cuisine 1449 Sacramento St., Berkeley, 510-841-7118 (Indian/Pakistani) $

Paragon Bar & Cafe 41 Tunnel Rd., Berkeley, 510-549-8585 (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Rick & Ann's Restaurant and Catering 2922 Domingo Ave., Berkeley, 510-649-8538 (American/Breakfast/Brunch) $$

Shen Hua 2914 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-1777 (Chinese) $-$$

Smokehouse 3115 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-3640 (American) $

BERKELEY-WEST & EMERYVILLE

Cafe Rouge 1782 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-525-1440 (California Cuisine/French/Organic/Sustainable/Coffeehouses) $$-$$$

Cafe Leila 1805 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-558-1101 (Bakery/American) $

[illegible] 1325 66th St., Emeryville, 510-923-0410 (Mexican) $$

Digs Bistro 1453 Dwight Way, Berkeley, 510-548-2322 (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Doyle Street Cafe 5515 Doyle St., Emeryville, 510-547-8552 (Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $

[illegible] 1122 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-9300 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Fellini 1401 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-5200 (Italian/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$

[illegible] 1651 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-524-1890 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Lois the Pie Queen 851 60th St., Emeryville, 510-658-5050 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

Priya Indian Cuisine 2072 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-644-3877 (Indian/Pakistani) $$

[illegible] 3027 San Pablo Ave., Emeryville, 510-541-8718 (Southern/Soul Food) $$

Skates on the Bay 100 Seawall Dr., Berkeley, 510-549-1900 (American/Seafood) $$

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[illegible] 2203 [illegible] Ave., Pleasant Hill, 925-676-1131 (African) $$

Kinder's Custom Meats 2227 Monument Ave., Pleasant Hill, 925-798-2393 (Barbecue/Deli) $

[illegible] Custom Meats 1830 Arnold Industrial Way, Concord, 925-686-1288 (Barbecue/Deli) $

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RECENTLY REVIEWED

Plum

2214 Broadway, Oakland, 510-444-7586. Star chef Daniel Patterson's more casual, scaled-down neighborhood version of San Francisco's Coi serves up farm-fresh ingredients in unusual California-fusion combinations: deviled eggs with caperberry-tarragon relish, oyster stew with parsley root and wheatgrass, braised cauliflower with dandelion salsa verde. The execution doesn't always live up to the high concept, but the beef cheek/oxtail burger is sensational, the artichoke/chervil terrine is lush and delectable, and the white chocolate parfait with huckleberries is a dream. Strikingly dark, sleek setting; impressive wine list. $$$

Zaki Kabob House

1101 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-527-5452. The Ayyad family operated delis around the Bay Area for thirty years before opening Zaki Kabob House two years ago in a location that many locals considered "cursed." The Ayyads transformed it into a homey, cozy, picture-bedecked setting where they serve Levantine classics such as shawarma, tabouleh, *kibbeh* and, of course, kabobs. The house specialty is rotisserie chicken, whose spice rub and marinade are closely held secrets of owner Ramzy Ayyad's Palestinian mother. Vegans can choose from a wide range of selections: standouts include fava bean salad, falafel burgers, baba ghanouj, and Lebanese lentil rice mujadara. $

Nex

2442 Webster St., Oakland, 510-238-8224. Hi-Sak Deng's downtown hangout serves satisfying, inventive French-Italian-American comfort food in a cozy, artsy setting. Gooey marrow bones and green beans with egg, bacon, and Green Goddess dressing are among the delectable starters; the crispy-skin beer brick chicken is already a local must-have. There are thin-crusted, wood-fired pizzas, too, plus fennel-cake fries and a rich, bittersweet chocolate pot de crème for dessert. Eclectic, unpretentious wine list. $$$

Lot 68 Lounge

22[illegible] Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-644-[illegible]. Lacking street access or even a window to the world outside, Lot 68 occupies a space set polyp-like off the Shattuck Cinemas lobby. It looks and feels like other chic restaurant-bars. Mauve walls stretch to a matte black ceiling lightened by glass bricks. On Friday nights and when important games are on the two huge flatscreen TVs, this place is packed. Lacking a formal kitchen and doing its best with a microwave/convection/infrared oven, Lot 68 is a few steps up from a concession stand using parboiled, fresh, and frozen components to prepare attractive, satisfying versions of American-bistro standards. $

Paisan

2514 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-649-1031. The pizza is just part of the concept at Berkeley's latest upscale pizzeria. Hearty pasta dishes, scrumptious antipasti including risotto fritters and braised tripe with polenta, and a handful of entrées complement slender (not thin) crusted wood-fired pizzas topped with nontraditional ingredients like sweet corn, calamari, arugula, and aioli. The exposed-brick-polished steel setting is casual, airy, and attractive; there's a lovely patio out back, and the house cocktails are dazzlingly inventive. $$

Hamro Aangan

856 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-524-[illegible]. This homey restaurant with its colorfully patterned cotton tablecloths and wall-size oil painting depicting Nepal's lofty peaks sports a prayer-flag-fringed, umbrella-tabled open-air courtyard out back. For the homesick Himalayans and stranded-at-sea-level trekkers among Hamro Aangan's already loyal league of regulars, the documentaries that owner Mohan Bhandari sometimes screens here stir high-altitude memories fed by generous portions of well-cooked Indian standards. These include vegetable *korma*, tandoori chicken, and rosewater-perfumed *gulab jamun*, along with hearty, humble, and (usually) less rigorously pedigreed but Nepalese favorites such as *kukhura ko ledo*, *momos*, and *aloo ko achar*. $

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WINEAU

The Path More Taken

Do easy-to-find wines equal peace of mind?

Some bargain wines you see so frequently, and in so many places that they become a piece of the shopping wallpaper. And somehow, you never end up buying them. For me, **Woodbridge** wines by **Robert Mondavi** are the perfect example. They're instantly recognizable to even casual wine shoppers and bear a simple but classic label featuring a tranquil scene from Lodi, California, of a bridge over untroubled waters and undulating hills of vineyards.

These wines can be found seemingly everywhere for $7.99: Try BevMo, Walmart, Rite Aid, Target, Trader Joe's, Safeway, or CVS, for a few. Because they're so ubiquitous, they may not have earned a place on your shopping list. But in the interests of good journalism, I felt I really should get to the bottom of Woodbridge's wines.

Reading the PR blurb for the wines, I immediately warmed to the philosophy espoused by Robert Mondavi, who died two years ago. He founded Woodbridge Winery at his home in Lodi in 1979, aiming to make wines that could be enjoyed as a part of daily life. A glass of "everyday wine" on as many tables as possible seems to me a refreshingly democratic ambition.

The label on the **2009 Chardonnay** says it should smell and taste of pear pie, and it did slightly. It was a very easy drink with a touch of butter and fruit. As my husband Kevin put it, "You won't wow your guests with this, but it's perfectly fine."

With the **2008 Zinfandel**, I could smell and taste pepper and a hint of chocolate and cranberry. It was very soft, smooth, and drinkable. Kevin agreed it was peppery and smooth, but less like a Zin than a "peppery Pinot."

The smell and taste of cloves and boysenberry dominated the **2009 Merlot**. It was much deeper and richer than the Zin. I generally liked it, but Kevin did not go for the overlay of cloves. "The cloves are an unusual taste; reminds me of mulled wine," he said. "I like mulled wine sometimes when it's cold out, but I don't want to be reminded of it when sipping Merlot."

None of the wines were as full, complex, and tasty as what you'd normally expect of these varietals — but they were very drinkable. Sometimes what you need for the night is right under your nose.

— *Jody Brettkelly*

jbrettkelly@gmail.com

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Kinder's Seaside Meats 3096 San Pablo Ave. Suite I, Hercules. 510-724-2337. (Barbecue/Deli) $

Little Ange's 6415 [illegible] Ave., El Cerrito. 510-32?-8981 (Steak House) $$-$$$

Marylou's Restaurant Delights 4572 Sycamore Ave., Suite I, Hercules. 510-245-7700. (Bagels) $

Pim Bua Thai 12400 San Pablo Ave., Richmond. 510-235-1233. (Vietnamese) $-$$

Pippo Garibaldi 250 23rd St., Richmond. 510-234-1952 (Mexican/Peruvian) $-$$

Saigonese Thai 3288 Pierce St. #B116, Richmond. 510-558-9130. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Vietnamese) $

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Kinder's Custom Meats 43781 [illegible] Rd., Fremont. 510-440-5307. (Belgian/Barbecue/Deli) $

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FOOD & WINE

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Fruit Carving Class With award-winning fruit carver Benny Zhang. Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. Continues through Dec. 4. $55 plus $10 materials fee per class. Oakland Asian Cultural Center, 388 9th St., Oakland, 510-637-0455. OACC.cc.

Street Market and Bread Bread Sample dozens of artisan foodies and meet the people who made them. Ticket price also covers samples of beer, wine, lemon, and other food. For more information, see CACheeseGuild.org. Sun., Dec. 5, 2-5 p.m. $40. Grace Street Catering, 4009 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland. popupgeneralstore.blogspot.com/

Sidewalk Ladies Party Wed. 4-5, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Saul's Restaurant and Delicatessen, 1475 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-3354. Saulsdeli.com.

FARMERS' MARKETS

Alameda Farmers' Market Tuesdays, 9:00 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. Webster St. (at Haight Ave.), Alameda St. Alameda.

Bayfair Green Farmers' Market Saturdays, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. Bayfair Center, 15555 E. 14th St., San Leandro. 510-357-6000. Shopbayfair.com.

Berkeley Market Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Berkeley Adult School, 1150 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley.

Concord Sundays Market Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Todos Santos Plaza, Willow Pass Rd. and Grant St., Concord. 925-681-2464.

Farm Fresh Market Community Dinners Wednesdays. 3-6:30 p.m. 510-848-2784, EcologyCenter.org.

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Taqueria Dinners 2138 Broadway Blvd. Oakland, 510-535-1206. (Mexican) $

OAKLAND-PIEDMONT, GRAND LAKE & EAST

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Prime Spot Bar & Grill 3417 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-208-5818. (Steak House) $$$

Spettro 3355 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-451-1739. (California Cuisine/Pizza) $$

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Market 5301 College Ave., Oakland, 510-665-6508. (Asian Fusion/Seafood) $$-$$$

Albrin Community Center, San Pablo Park, 2800 Park St., Berkeley. 510-981-5160. Ci.berkeley.ca.us/recreation/farmersmarket

Dimond Lake Farmers' Market Saturdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Splash Pad Park, Grand Ave. and Lakeshore. Dinners 510-238-7210. OaklandNet.com/Parks/Parks/SplashPad.asp

Kaiser Permanente Hayward Farmers' Market At the main entrance to the hospital, Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Kaiser Hayward, 27400 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward.

Kaiser Permanente Oakland Farmers' Market Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Kaiser Hall and 3801 Howe St., Oakland.

Kaiser Permanente Union City Farmers' Market Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Kaiser Medical Center, Union City, 3553 Whipple Rd., Union City.

Kaiser Permanente Walnut Creek Farmers' Market On the cafeteria patio Tuesdays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Kaiser Walnut Creek, 1425 South Main St., Walnut Creek.

Kensington Farmers' Market Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Colusa Circle, at the Colusa Circle, Kensington.

Laurel District Farmers' Market Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Laurel District Farmers' Market, 4175 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland.

Splendid Farmers' Market Saturdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Continues Market Rain. Dinners Pedestrian, 5715 Martin St. Oakland.

North Berkeley Farmers' Market Thursdays, 3-7 p.m. Free admission. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Shattuck Ave. at Rose St., Berkeley.

Pacific Coast Jack London Square Farmers' Market Sundays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Jack London Square, 55 Harrison St., Oakland.

Richmond Certified Farmers' Market Fridays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Richmond Farmers Market, 24th St. & Barrett Ave., Richmond.

Richmond Market & Market Fridays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Richmond Farmers Market, 24th St. & Barrett Ave. Richmond.

Saturday Berkeley Farmers' Market Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. MLK Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr.

Marzano on Market 5356 College Ave. Dinners 510-596-4050. (Italian) $$$

Hao Tong 6048 College Ave., Oakland, 510-655-3758. (Southeast Asian) $$

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Noodles 5422 College Ave., Oakland, 510-654-1868. (Italian/Pizza) $-$$

Soi Bangkok Eatery 5421 College Ave., Oakland, 510-655-7688. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Dinners) $$

Oakwood 5017 College Ave., Oakland, 510-428-1823. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine) $$

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PICK

Fungus Fair

Local fungi well demonstrate many ways to cook wild mushrooms at the **Mycological Society of San Francisco**'s 41st annual **Fungus Fair** on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 4-5, at the **Lawrence Hall of Science** (1 Centennial Dr., Berkeley). Sample edible fungi at the fair, where mycologists will explain how to forage them and discern them from their lethal cousins. Lectures throughout the day will elucidate mushrooms' many uses, from medicine to cloth-dyeing to spaghetti sauce. 10 a.m., free with LHS admission ($6-$12; kids under 3 free). LawrenceHallofScience.org
— *Anneli Rufus*

Way, Berkeley. 510-981-5050. Ci.Berkeley.ca.us/ContentDisplay.aspx?id=12300

Temescal Farmers' Market Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. DMV Parking Lot, 5300 Claremont Ave., Oakland.

Tuesday Berkeley Farmers' Market Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m. Free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Derby St. (at Martin Luther King Jr. Way), Berkeley.

Union City Farmers' Market Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. Old Alvarado/Cesar Chavez Park, Smith & Market St., Union City. ●

925-800-0000. (American/Steak House) $$$$

Bahama Grill 6063-A Marin Pl., San Ramon, 925-830-1444. (Hawaiian) $

Kinder's Market Meats 4000 Hopyard Rd., Suite F2, Pleasanton, 925-461-2100. (Barbecue/Deli) $

Kinder's Market Meats 165 Town & Country Dr., Danville, 925-552-6300. (Barbecue/Deli) $

Lawrence's Market Creek Wine Co. 225-B Alamo Plaza, Alamo, 925-838-9508. (Wine Bar/Tapas) $

Wolf's Restaurant 10 Boardwalk, San Ramon, 925-831-9300. (California Cuisine) $$$

The Patio 980 Moraga Rd., Lafayette, 925-283-5885. (South American/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

Red Rooster Grill 4820 Dublin Blvd., Dublin, 925-829-5300. (Hawaiian) $

Zitar 21314 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon, 925-829-3568. (Middle Eastern/Persian) $$

WALNUT CREEK

Alpha Dinners Deli & Restaurant 1415 Newell Ave., Walnut Creek, 925-256-8175. (Eastern European) $$

Bing Crosby's 1342 Broadway Plaza, Walnut Creek, 925-939-2464. (American/Steak House/Bars & Clubs) $$$$

Flavor of India 1350 N. Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-256-7684. (Indian/Pakistani/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Kinder's Certified Meats 1981 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Walnut Creek, 925-932-0953. (Barbecue/Deli) $

P.C. Bowl 1531 N. Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-287-1418. (Chinese) $$

The Original Hick'ry Pit 1651 South Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-935-7450. (Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $$

Tiki Tom's 1538 Olympic Blvd., Walnut Creek, 925-932-9202. (Hawaiian) $$

Va de Vi Bistro & Wine Bar 1511 Mount Diablo Blvd., Walnut Creek, 925-979-0100. (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Tapas/Small Plates/Wine Bar) $$-$$$

Vic Stewart's 850 South Broadway, Walnut Creek, 925-943-5666. (Steak House) $$$$ ●

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MOVIES

TOE TO TOE

Freaked-out ballerina Natalie Portman (*Black Swan*), meet fun gay prison-inmate couple Jim Carrey and Ewan McGregor (*I Love You Phillip Morris*)

By Kelly Vance

Natalie Portman excels in Darren Aronofsky's excellent *Black Swan*.

Black Swan is such a triumph that it presents a problem, the sort any reviewer loves to have: How do we begin to describe its winning combination of writing, acting, and directing?

The logical place to look for the secret key to unlock director **Darren Aronofsky**'s box of chimerical splendors is probably Aronofsky himself. From ***The Wrestler*** to *Black Swan* is not the huge leap it might appear to be. If once upon a time we caught ourselves wondering how the creator of ***Pi***, ***Requiem for a Dream***, and ***The Fountain*** could then follow the joyless yearnings of a washed-up wrestler with the story of an obsessed ballerina, **Natalie Portman**'s performance puts all that doubt to rest in the first fifteen minutes. Portman is a revelation as haunted dancer Nina Sayers, and she's Aronofsky's private dancer first and foremost.

The backstage milieu of world-class ballet is evidently just as brutal and cutthroat as *The Wrestler*'s National Guard armory locker rooms. As a rising star in a major New York ballet company, Nina has to not only punish her body for her art, but also defend herself against rival dancers jealous of her success — chief among whom is the voluptuous Lily (**Mila Kunis**) — and satisfy the increasingly bizarre demands of the company's director and male lead dancer, Thomas Leroy (**Vincent Cassel**, a long way from the ***Mesrine*** films).

Nina is up for the prize role of the Swan Queen in the company's upcoming revival of Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake*, and the pressure is literally driving her crazy. As if she weren't nervous enough about her status, the unscrupulous Thomas employs time-tested show-biz slave-driven techniques to goad his prima ballerina to new heights, alternately encouraging her, promoting and demoting her capriciously, and manipulating her sexually. Meanwhile, pale, skeletal, terminally insecure Nina is taking her career a little too seriously. Dancing is the only thing in her life as she skitters back and forth from the workplace to the gruesome apartment she shares with her mother, former ballerina Erica (**Barbara Hershey**), just as highly strung as her daughter and with strange taste in hobbies. Surely Nina is heading for a nervous breakdown, or worse.

With the skill of a master, Aronofsky lets Nina simmer in her own juices. Odd things begin to happen. Nina thinks she sees her doppelganger on the street. There's this curious rash/laceration/stigmata on her back. When the bitchy Lily takes Nina out for an evening of drinks, drugs, and sex with a couple of guys, Nina experiences nothing but terror. And Thomas, in the guise of helping Nina discover the dark side of her nature in order to enact the role of the Black Swan, assigns her some homework. "Touch yourself." This movie is playing with fire. There's a definite whiff of **David Cronenberg** in Nina's shadowy predicament, also **Roman Polanski** and **Brian De Palma**. And of course **Michael Powell**. But the wily Aronofsky avoids imitating *The Red Shoes* or any other ballet film. Its field is the queasy-making netherworld of psychodrama, light on the pulp but thick on the emotional turmoil playing itself out on Nina's face. Everyone and everything in her life is menacing to her.

Black Swan

Directed by Darren Aronofsky. With Natalie Portman and Vincent Cassel. Opens Friday.

I Love You Phillip Morris

Directed by Glenn Ficarra and John Requa. With Jim Carrey and Ewan McGregor. Opens Friday.

The screenplay by **Mark Heyman**, **Andres Heinz**, and **John J. McLaughlin**, adapted from a story by Heinz, makes a point of skating dangerously close to hysteria without going over the edge. It's not a horror movie nor a lurid exposé nor an airless display of bitchiness, even though it contains touches of all those styles. We recognize Nina's hallucinations for what they are, but that's no help in predicting which direction her mind will turn.

Ms. Portman has never been put through her paces with such intensity, not even as a precocious twelve-year-old in **Luc Besson**'s ***The Professional***. She's frighteningly good as Nina, responding to a demanding screenplay that's several steps above most of the films in which she's worked. Cassel, Kunis, Hershey, and **Winona Ryder**, in a small but pungent turn as a fallen idol, handle what are essentially archetypal roles with grace and intelligence, trimmed always with sadism. There are essentially no other speaking parts in the film, just spaces populated by faces.

Frederick Wiseman's documentary *La Danse: Le ballet de l'Opéra de Paris* played Bay Area theaters briefly this year. "Briefly" because the market for movies about ballet, or any other type of high art, is paper-thin. Aronofsky and his cast and crew are to be commended for rushing in where other filmmakers might fear to tread, but *Black Swan*'s risk-taking extends beyond the choice of the ballet demimonde — after all, Nina might just as well have been a novelist pressured to come up with a bestseller. Where this daring, exciting, confident film really succeeds is in its fearless excursion into the soul of an artist. We wouldn't want to live there, but it's a scary, exhilarating place to visit.

Black Swan isn't the only unlikely hard-to-sell entertainment in theaters this week. How's this for a premise — a gay romantic comedy starring **Jim Carrey** and **Ewan McGregor** as two men who fall in love in prison and get into further trouble from there. That's the setup of **Glen Ficarra** and **John Requa**'s ***I Love You Phillip Morris***, a movie that manages to cram the police mentality, penitentiary life, matter-of-fact homosexuality, Texas, **Enron**, diabetes, AIDS, and **Johnny Mathis**' "Chances Are" into the same crowded frame, for laughs.

Carrey brings his "A" game to the role of real-life con man Steven Russell, a slippery escapee no jail can hold. Carrey has matured away from his most vertiginous physical gags, but not so far that we don't recognize him as a master of screwball, unhinged humor (someone should offer him the title role in *The George Jones Story*).

Steven and fellow Southern boy **Phillip Morris** (McGregor) make the Texas correctional system look like a swinging country club. Writer-directors Requa and Ficarra (***Bad Santa***), adapting the true-crime book by former newspaper reporter **Steve McVicker**, let us in on the joke almost — but not quite — from the get-go. The humor is one-dimensional, but Carrey and McGregor paint every millimeter of that dimension purple. It's not exactly the slapstick laff riot of the year, but it's pointed in the right direction. ●

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MOVIES & THEATERS

To learn where a movie is playing, note the abbreviations at the end of each listing, then consult the theater guide at the bottom of this page. Capsule reviews are written by Andrea Gronvall (A.G.), Cole Haddon (C.H.), J.R. Jones (J.J.), and Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see One-Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to editor@eastbayexpress.com.

OPENING

Marwencol "What if your therapy became art?" asks Mark Hogancamp, the subject of this engaging documentary. After he survived being beaten nearly to death in his hometown of Kingston, NY, Hogancamp recuperated by creating an intricate miniature tangent village, circa WWII, and peopling it with American and German soldiers and beautiful young women, all repurposed from Barbie dolls. The Marwencol saga became his emotional escape route, and when he began photographing his elaborate scenarios, his work found favor in sophisticated art circles. But there's more to Hogancamp's personal story than artistic fame, as Jeff Malmberg's fascinating doc illustrates. (83 min.) (K.V.)

The Nutcracker in 3D Lush adaptation of Tchaikovsky's classic ballet, starring Elle Fanning and Nathan Lane. Directed by Andrei Konchalovsky. (110 min.) [illegible]

Saint Misbehavin': The Wavy Gravy Movie Berkeley's own Wavy Gravy tells his story, from his days as a Greenwich Village comic, through the Woodstock festival, to his present-day role as a sort of secular humanist holy man/clown whose credo takes the form of a ditty: "Wouldn't it be neat if the people that you meet/Had shoes upon their feet and something to eat?/ And wouldn't it be fine if all humankind had shelter?" Filmmaker Michelle Esrick follows Wavy on his circuitous route, with testimony from such admirers as Jackson Browne, Odetta, and Buffy Sainte-Marie, and plenty of archival reminiscences. More than just a hippie feel-good movie. D.A. Pennebaker serves as executive producer of this lovely film. (87 min.) (K.V.)

The Warrior's Way Debut fantasy film about a warrior on the run. Starring Jang Dong Gun, Geoffrey Rush, Kate Bosworth, and Danny Huston, written and directed by Sngmoo Lee. (100 min.) [illegible]

Showtimes Online

Movie showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com

ONGOING

127 Hours An experienced outdoorsman (James Franco) on a solo hike gets trapped in a deep crevice in the desert and has to cut off his arm to survive. Director Danny Boyle and star Franco, with the help of A.R. Rahman's music and cinematography by Enrique Chediak and Anthony Dod Mantle, take that slender but sensational news story — based on the true ordeal of Aron Ralston — and spin it into something like cinematic gold, using [illegible] to etch the personal side of a magnificently stressful situation. It's Franco in overdrive but it's also probably the longest 94 minutes you'll spend in a good movie — that's meant as a compliment. The adapted screenplay is by Boyle and Simon Beaufoy, who also did *Slumdog Millionaire* together. (93 min.) (K.V.) CAPM, CA, PM, [illegible] UA

Theater Guide

The guide explains the abbreviations at the end of each capsule. **AL** = Landmark Albany, **ATC** = Alameda Theatre & Cineplex, **BC** = Brenden Concord, **BH** = Cinemark Blackhawk, **BP** = Brenden Pittsburg, **BS** = AMC Bay Street, **CA** = Landmark California, **CAPM** = Century Pleasant Hill, **CB** = Century Bayfair, **CCC** = Contra Costa Cinemas, **CEPN** = Century Plaza 8, **CH** = Century Hayward, **CN** = Cinedome Newark, **CRC** = Regal Crow Canyon, **CSC** = Chabot Space and Science, **CUC** = Century Union City, **CWC** = Century Walnut Creek, **DV** = AMC Deer Valley, **GL** = Grand Lake, **JL** = Regal Jack London, **NB** = [illegible], **OA** = Oaks, **OR** = [illegible], **PFA** = Pacific Film Archive, **PM** = Landmark Piedmont, **RCE** = Rialto Cinemas Cerrito, **RE** = Regal Emeryville, **RT** = Rheem Theater, **SH** = Landmark Shattuck, **UAB** = UA Berkeley, **UAEB** = UA Emery Bay, **V** = Vine, **WWS** = West Wind Solano.

Fair Game

Break Ke Baad Hindi-language coming-of-age film starring Imran Khan and Deepika Padukone. Directed by Danish Aslam and scripted by Aslam and Renuka Kunzru. (115 min.) [illegible]

Burlesque Christina Aguilera is an Iowa waitress who relocates and sings her way to stardom in a fading burlesque-style nightclub on the Sunset Strip; Cher is the owner and top showhouse mending costumes when not jousting with the rich developer (Eric Dane of *Grey's Anatomy*) who wants both the club and Aguilera. This slick, brassy musical embraces chorus-line clichés, raiding everything from *Gold Diggers of 1933* to *Showgirls*; even the dances feel oddly dated, as choreographers Denise Faye and Joey Pizzi borrow liberally from Bob Fosse. But the current burlesque revival is a throwback to ostensibly more innocent times, and writer-director Steven Antin finds something redemptive in even stray actor (even bad girl Kristen Bell is rewarded with such meaty lines as "I will not be upstaged by a slut with mutant lungs!"). With Stanley Tucci and Alan Cumming. (116 min.) (4.0) [illegible]

Dinosaurs Alive! From the Triassic to the Cretaceous, dinosaurs are uncovered by paleontologists and portrayed in realistic CGI. CSC

Due Date Robert Downey Jr. needs to fly from Atlanta to LA before his wife delivers their first child, but after fellow passenger Zach Galifianakis gets him not only ejected from the plane but also placed on the no-fly list, the two embark on a cross-country drive. This odd-couple comedy features Galifianakis, who Todd Phillips, who directed *The Hangover*, but don't expect anything like the other movie's novel premise or wild [illegible]. Phillips has already directed a road comedy—the needlessly stupid *Road Trip* (2000)—and this is weak tea by comparison. If the story sounds familiar, you might be remembering Steve Martin and John Candy as mismatched travelers in John Hughes's *Planes, Trains and Automobiles* (1987). (100 min.) [illegible] R.

Fair Game The true story of how the Bush administration ruined the careers of CIA agent Valerie Plame (Naomi Watts) and her diplomat husband Joseph Wilson (Sean Penn) for exposing the "weapons of mass destruction" subterfuge/justification for the Iraq invasion since 2003. In more than just another of Participant Media's depressing stories of life in corporate-controlled America. They actually make an attractive couple. And filmmaker Doug Liman (the *Bourne* movies, *Swingers*), with help from Jez and John-Henry Butterworth's screenplay (adapted from books by Wilson and Plame), takes us on an exhilarating, if disheartening, trip behind the headlines. Notice how the bad guys love to toss off phrases. PG-13. (104 min.) [illegible]

Faster A former getaway driver (Dwayne Johnson) goes after the man responsible for the murder of his half brother, all the while dodging an unstable hit man (Oliver Jackson-Cohen) and a troubled cop (Billy Bob Thornton, channeling Harry Dean Stanton). In an era when action films are defined by [illegible], this revenge saga distinguishes itself through crisp visuals and economic plotting. Director George Tillman Jr. (*Soul Food*) and screenwriters Tony and Joe Gayton cultivate an old-school vibe heavily indebted to Walter Hill's *The Driver* (1978) and *Johnny Handsome* (1989) and like Hill, they understand the genre's potential for myth-making; the final third of the movie takes the form of an evangelical parable, with Johnson standing in for the devil. The film never overstays its welcome, but [illegible]. (98 min.) [illegible] R.

For Colored Girls Tyler Perry directs, produces, and adapts this ensemble drama based on Ntozake Shange's lyric play *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuf* and starring Janet Jackson, Loretta Devine, Thandie Newton, Kimberly Elise, and others. (133 min.) [illegible]

The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest The third and final installment in author Stieg Larsson's "Millennium Trilogy" finds vengeful protagonist Lisbeth Salander (Noomi Rapace) recovering from her wounds and taking the bad guys — her insanely evil father, her killer behemoth half-brother, and the misogynistic element of the Swedish government — to court for a legal showdown in the wake of the first two parts' mayhem. All the while [illegible], Rapace's Lisbeth is the ideal riot grrrl, and righteous journalist Mikael Blomkvist (Michael Nyqvist) is her perfect complementary companion. Together they make most other crime-fighting teams look pokey and childish by comparison. Director Daniel Alfredson (*The Girl Who Played with Fire*) supplies typically [illegible], with [illegible] adapting the late Larsson's novel. A winner. (148 min.) [illegible]

Guzaarish Hindi-language romance about a paraplegic magician (Hrithik Roshan) and his nurse (Aishwarya Rai). Directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali and written by Vibhu Puri and Bhansali. [illegible] UA

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 Cliffhanger seventh episode in the franchise deploys Harry to thwart the evil Lord Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes) and his cohort of fiends, then plunges into the ongoing ménage-à-trois among Harry (Daniel Radcliffe), Hermione (Emma Watson), and odd man out Ron Weasley (Rupert Grint). Despite an undercover visit to the Ministry of Magic and the [illegible], the middle sags a bit. Best sequence: the "Three Brothers" legend shadow play. Take away the comfy-gothic scenery stuff and you've got an ordinary big-budget thriller like any other — but then [illegible] warlocks are more or less the point, aren't they?

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Bobbing for a pulse in the [illegible] are Rupert Grint, Emma Watson and [illegible] among [illegible]. The Potter series' spell is definitely wearing off. Carpenter direction by David Yates from Steve Kloves' adaptation of the J.K. Rowling young-adult book. (146 min.) (KV)(BE, BV, BC, BP, CWC, CII, CEPH, CH, CUC, CM, RH, CEC, EL, CRC, PH, JL, RCC, LNB, NWS)

Hereafter Clint Eastwood likes to make a meaningful, emotionally solemn drama about [illegible] subjects, mortality, destiny, [illegible] the [illegible] of human beings, and so on. Surprisingly, he succeeds. With the help of screenwriter Peter Morgan (*Frost/Nixon*, *The Damned United*, *The Queen*) and a thoughtful cast headed by Matt Damon, Cécile de France, and young English twins George and Frankie McLaren, [illegible] Eastwood wisely shirts the [illegible] and keeps his actors, not the mystical-phenomenal [illegible] of it all, carry the load. The best scenes in this international project — shot mostly at England's Pinewood Studios but also in Paris, Hawaii, and San Francisco — are among the best work Eastwood has ever done, touchy-feely [illegible]. Also with Bryce Dallas Howard, Thierry Neuvic, and Jay Mohr. (129 min.) (KV)(BC, CWC, S, UAEB)

Inside Job So who got us into the Great Recession? Greedy [illegible], [illegible] free-market economists, and every regulation-destroying politician and government [illegible] since Ronald Reagan, says this outraged but cool-headed doc by Charles Ferguson (*No End in Sight*). The mountain of incriminating evidence [illegible] but [illegible] Ferguson, [illegible] and Adam Bolt, and narrator Matt Damon lay it all out in a [illegible] timeline. The [illegible] did quite well, [illegible] but [illegible] "[illegible]" [illegible] — private gains to public loss — no one [illegible] it. The film's parting [illegible]: What should we believe in? Talking heads [illegible] French finance minister Christine Lagarde, IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn, and liberal [illegible] George Soros. (120 min.) (KV)(CAPH, S, V)

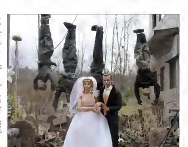
Kings of Pastry Documentary directors Chris Hegedus and D.A. Pennebaker [illegible]

heights in this entertaining "competition doc" about France's [illegible] MOF contest (Meilleurs Ouvriers de France), the [illegible] for world-class Gallic pastry chefs. Cued to Django Reinhardt-style swing jazz, we follow a French immigrant chef from Chicago named Jacquy Pfeiffer as he and his fellow aspirants [illegible] feverishly [illegible] in a three-day test, observed every step of the way by a [illegible] of judges. When one entry's [illegible] crumbles, everyone on screen [illegible] and tears. You might do the same. (87 min.) (KV)(CE)

Love and Other Drugs Monumentally [illegible] romance by director Edward Zwick and a [illegible] than [illegible] to [illegible] (Jake Gyllenhaal) falling in love with [illegible] (Anne Hathaway) and meeting his [illegible] in crazy ways. But not before the randy pharma pusher [illegible] the drug's effectiveness in [illegible] sex scenes. What was Zwick (director of *Blood Diamond*, *The Last Samurai*) thinking? The [illegible] screenplay, adapted by Zwick and two other writers from a book by ex-Viagra rep Jamie Reidy, lurches from [illegible] to [illegible] and [illegible] Hathaway and Gyllenhaal [illegible]. Supporting actors Oliver Platt, Hank Azaria, and Josh Gad fare better because their characters are one-dimensional. If you experience [illegible], blood pressure, temporary blindness, or loss of hearing, it's not better than sitting through this [illegible]. (112 min.) (KV)(BV, BC, BP, CCC, EL, CRC, RH, JL, RCC, UAEB)

Megamind Quick-witted, spectacular animated fun with a likable supervillain (voice of Will Ferrell) who can never get it quite right. The only thing blue [illegible] is [illegible] visitor from a [illegible] planet. Megamind's really [illegible] is the girl (Tina Fey). But he can't help taking the long way [illegible] by [illegible] superguys [illegible] Man (speaking all [illegible]), voiced by Brad Pitt, and "Titan" (the [illegible] voice of Jonah Hill) and destroying Metro City in the process. The [illegible] really make this work. It's better than the similarly [illegible] *Kick-Ass*. Directed by Tom McGrath from an original screenplay by Alan J. Schoolcraft and Brent Simons. (96 min.) (KV)(BC, BE, BV, BP, CWC, CII, CEPH, CH, CUC, CM, RH, CEC, EL, CRC, RH, JL, LNB, NWS)

Morning Glory Cornball but media-savvy. Predictable yet [illegible] actor-friendly. Roger (*Notting Hill*) Michell's [illegible] sitcom wants to be everything to [illegible]. It [illegible] TV producer Rachel McAdams in [illegible]. Morning [illegible] as she tries to pull a network's dying morning show out of the grave while [illegible] with Harrison Ford's grumpy veteran anchor. She [illegible] Ruff [illegible] to [illegible] all the [illegible].



Marwencol

and so on. Don't [illegible] than Brett [illegible] Diane Keaton as the [illegible] Morning host and Jeff Goldblum as [illegible] boss. The writing, by Aline Brosh McKenna (of *The Devil Wears Prada*, is a [illegible] "[illegible]". (107 min.) (KV)(BE, BV, BC, CWC, CII, CEPH, CH, CUC, CM, RH, CEC, EL, RH)

Mysteries of Egypt National Geographic and a [illegible] reveal the [illegible], legends, history — and more importantly [illegible] — of ancient Egyptian civilization. CSC

The Next Three Days Just exactly how does a college prof (Russell Crowe) go about springing his wife (Elizabeth Banks), wrongfully convicted of murder, from the county jail in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania? This [illegible] suspense [illegible] is [illegible] in writer-director Paul Haggis' adaptation of Fred Cavayé's French crime pic *Pour elle*, which is thankfully free of any trace of Haggis' *Crash*. Has Crowe ever been cast as [illegible]? Here, he and Banks emerge as reluctant but convincing outlaws, with Lennie James (a cop), Brian Dennehy (Crowe character's dad), Liam Neeson (a [illegible] expert), Kevin Corrigan ([illegible]), and Daniel Stern (lawyer) lending [illegible] support. Capable of producing sweaty palms. (133 min.) (KV)(BE, BV, BC, BP, CWC, CII, CEPH, CH, CUC, CM, S, RH, JL)

and Carl "The Make-Other-People-Bite-the-Bullet" Ilse. Smirk [illegible] retired CIA black op Bruce Willis joins forces with fellow graying former agents John Malkovich, Helen Mirren, and Morgan Freeman to take bloody [illegible] revenge on CIA, FBI, and White House goons — including [illegible] Richard Dreyfuss — [illegible] for [illegible] the USA. Director Robert Schwentke's mayhem-filled comedy [illegible] to a [illegible] Moeller [illegible] and girlfriend Mary-Louise Parker and especially Mirren and Randall [illegible] Brian Cox, make the most of Jon and Erich Hoeber's [illegible] dialogue [illegible] from Warren Ellis and Cully Hamner's graphic novel. Karl Urban and Rebecca Pidgeon [illegible] as CIA [illegible] with Ernest Borgnine as a CIA [illegible] guy. (111 min.) (KV)(BE, BC, BP, CWC, CEPH, CH, CUC, RH, RCE, UAEB, NWS)

Secretariat Biopic about Penny Chenery and her horse, Secretariat, who together won the Triple Crown in 1973. Directed by Randall Wallace, [illegible] by [illegible], and [illegible] Diane Lane as Chenery and John Malkovich as the horse's trainer. CEPH, RCC

Skyline A group of [illegible] (Eric Balfour, Scottie Thompson, Donald Faison, and David Zayas) attempt to stop an alien invasion in this [illegible] by Greg and Colin Strause, and written

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The Woman's Way

by Joshua Coden and Liam O'Donnell. (100 min.) 3TV BC, CWC, CB, CCPH, CH, CUC, CR, HH, UAEB

The Social Network All You Need to Friend. Director David Fincher (*The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, Fight Club*), screenwriter Aaron Sorkin (*The West Wing, Charlie Wilson's War*) and a sharp-tongued cast turn Ben Mezrich's book on the startup days of Facebook into a pitch-perfect portrait of the times. Led by Jesse Eisenberg's brilliant portrayal of insufferable tech genius Mark Zuckerberg, who rams through his vision of an online social juggernaut from Harvard to Sunnyvale, the spirited cast — Andrew Garfield, Justin Timberlake, Rooney Mara, Armie Hammer et al. — shows how a group of aggressive young geeks turned privilege into more privilege and became multi-billion-dollar masters of the universe, with plenty of sex, drugs, hurt feelings, accidental good fortune, and of course many trading along bruised feelings, bitter and intelligent. Also in rerelease. (121 min.) (KLV) CWC CCPH, CUC, BH, CAEB

Solarman The story of everyone's favorite flaming ball of gas. CSC

Tangled The tale of beauteous girl + cheeky snake-eye is the gorgeous Disney animation, which combines the studio's traditional hand-drawn look with the sculptural qualities of digital 3D. The Rapunzel narrative and unlikely hold is a roustabout thief (given voice by Zachary Levi) who stumbles upon a hidden tower where the princess (Mandy Moore) is being held by a glamorous witch posing as her mother (Donna Murphy). Alan Menken's memorable score includes the show-stealing "Mother Knows Best," in which Murphy channels all the monstrous smothering power of Mama Rose in *Gypsy*. Byron Howard (*Bolt*) and Nathan Greno directed. (92 min.) (A.J.) 3BY BC, BP, CCC, EL, CWC, RH, UAB, VWS

Showtimes Online

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To Be an Astronaut Wonder what it takes? Take a trip inside the gates of NASA for an IMAX-enhanced view of everything from training to lift-off. (40 min.) CSC

Today's Special Indie riff about a New York chef (Aasif Mandvi) who is forced to run his family's Indian restaurant. Directed by David Kaplan and written by Mandvi and Jonathan Bines. CUC, CAPH, AL, UAEB

The Town Ben Affleck's feature directing debut, *Gone Baby Gone* (2007), achieved a tragic depth unusual for a crime film centered on the child at its center, though whose tale from kidnapping, was ultimately deposited more into a ferocious cycle of poverty and domestic abuse. This second feature doesn't resonate with nearly as much power, but its suspenseful story of two generations of career criminals in Boston's Charlestown neighborhood has a similarly harrowing quality. Two old friends who've been thieving together for years (Affleck and Jeremy Renner of *The Hurt Locker*) soon bolster a bank robbery during which they're forced to leave with a hostage (Rebecca Hall). Though they release her unharmed and she hasn't seen their faces, Affleck later meets and falls in love with her. Renner would rather shut her up permanently. Jon Hamm is the FBI agent gunning for them, and Chris Cooper is Affleck's imprisoned father, a vicious bastard. (120 min.) (J.J.) EA

Unstoppable Thriller about a runaway train and the two men (played by Denzel Washington and Chris Pine) who must stop it. Directed by Tony Scott and written by Mark Bomback. (98 min.) BH, BY, BC, BP, CWC, CB, CCPH, CH, CUC, CB, BH, CCC, CRC, RH, AL, UAB

White Material For her cinematic return to the French colonial West Africa of her youth (and the scene of her 1988 film *Chocolat*), filmmaker Claire Denis puts actor Isabelle Huppert through an endurance contest as the feudal owner of a coffee plantation. The government is collapsing, rebels are driving out white settlers, soldiers are looting, her grown son (Nicolas Duvauchelle) has come unglued mentally, and in the midst of the fray Maria must try to round up men to harvest and process the coffee crop. A typical Huppert tour de force performance — she goes to extraordinary lengths to survive every twist of it. Isaach De Bankolé plays the rebel leader, and the film ends with the DIY dictator wearing out as if to say this is the end of an era. Denis writes the scenario with Marie NDiaye and Lucie Borleteau. (106 min.) (K.V.)

ONE NIGHT STANDS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Voices of Light/The Passion of Joan of Arc (81 min. 1928) Carl Theodor Dreyer. Silent film accompanied by vocal groups and 22-piece orchestra (Paramount Theatre, Oakland, 7:30)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3

The President (80 min. 1918) Carl Theodor Dreyer. Judith Rosenberg on piano (PFA, 7:00)

Vampyr (75 min. 1932) Carl Theodor Dreyer (PFA, 8:40)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4

The Crimson Pirate (104 min. 1952) Robert Siodmak. The Films of Burt Lancaster (PFA, 6:30)

Sweet Smell of Success (96 min. 1957) Alexander Mackendrick. The Films of Burt Lancaster (PFA, 8:40)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

Wedge in Italy (85 min. 1952) Hopes of Glory: Revisiting Italian Neorealism (PFA, 3:00)

Elmer Gantry (146 min. 1960) Richard Brooks. The Films of Burt Lancaster (PFA, 4:45)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

Il Grido (115 min. 1957) Hopes of Glory: Revisiting Italian Neorealism. Preceded by the short "People of the Po Valley" (11 min. 1947) (PFA, 7:00)

Oil-Blood Speaks and Small Blood Project: Global Black (2010). A collection of films presented by Education Without Borders: Internations (La Peña Cultural Center, Berkeley, 7:00)

GRAND LAKE THEATRE
BEST EAST BAY THEATER

HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS, PART ONE (PG13)
FRI-SAT-SUN 11:30, 2:45, 6:00, 9:15
MON-THUR 4:15, 7:30

LOVE AND OTHER DRUGS (R)
FRI-SAT-SUN 12:10, 2:10, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00
MON-THU 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

TANGLED IN 3D (PG)
FRI-SAT-SUN 11:45, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
MON-THU 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

MEGAMIND (PG)35mm
FRI-SAT-SUN 1:55, 2:45, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
MON-THU 4:45, 7:15, 9:45

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KINGS OF PASTRY
(2:10) 4:30 7:00 9:00 NR

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John Malkovich Helen Mirren
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127 HOURS (R)

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FAIR GAME PG-13
THE GIRL WHO KICKED THE HORNET'S NEST (R)

SHATTUCK 2230 Shattuck at Kittredge, Berkeley
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BURLESQUE (PG-13)
Screening Lounge
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HARWOOD (NR)
INSIDE JOB (PG-13)
Screening Lounge
BURLESQUE (PG-13)
Screening Lounge
THE SOCIAL NETWORK (PG-13)
127 HOURS (R)
THE NEXT THREE DAYS (PG-13)
FASTER (R)
MORNING GLORY (PG-13)
HEREAFTER (PG-13)
WHITE MATERIAL (NR)
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MUSIC

SLAYING THE SLOUGH FEG

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By Kathleen Richards

Slough Feg.

Michael Scalzi is fidgety. He could be nervous, but more likely he's just restless. He's done umpteen interviews in the past couple weeks, and this is just another one sucking up his precious time — time that could be used to write blazing guitar solos or lyrics about medieval Catholic theology. His eyes, which are set deep beneath a prominent brow ridge, dart around the boisterous interior of **The Chieftain**, an Irish bar on San Francisco's 5th Street, which on this particular November evening is populated by suit types gripped by a sporting event, and the goal of keeping the frigid night air at bay.

Since 1985, Scalzi has been playing heavy metal on a consistent basis, never stopping for more than one month at a time. Call him oversaturated, or obsessed. "My life revolves around playing," said Scalzi, whose deep voice sounds suitable for broadcast. "I do this to entertain myself, because I have to, because I'll go crazy."

Caressing a Guinness, the forty-year-old musician cuts a warrior-like figure. He wears a black T-shirt emblazoned with a graphic of a spike-clad Viking clutching a sword. Around his neck is tied a crude nail on a cord. The last time I saw him perform a couple years ago, his chest and arms were painted in a large, bold Celtic pattern. From afar it looked like a massive tattoo, but it was body paint. That revelation could have made him look cheesy. Instead, it was just sort of bizarre — not to mention eye-catching.

But such can be the reaction to Scalzi's band, **Slough Feg**, a twenty-year-old San Francisco outfit that harks back to metal's glory days of **Judas Priest** and **Iron Maiden**. It's dramatic music, anchored by Scalzi's penchant for dual guitars, expressive vocals that sound straight from musical theater, and brainy lyrics on subjects ranging from Celtic mythology to Catholic theology, science fiction, and "nerdy bullshit." (Its name derives from a character in Irish mythology.) Slough Feg is somewhat of a polarizing band in the metal scene. So-called "true" metal isn't exactly en vogue, though there's certainly an audience for it. Thus, metal fans tend to either embrace Scalzi's self-guided spirit or find his music too overindulgent. Indeed, an outsider might wonder: Is it mocking or serious?

In metal, sometimes it's a bit of both. But years of dedication and willful bachelorhood are proof enough that Slough Feg is Scalzi's most serious passion. Yet despite his love for heavy metal, he loathes a surprisingly large amount of the genre. "It seems very one-dimensional to me," he said. "The vocals sound like someone yelling around. I don't find anything interesting in it at all."

Raised in Pennsylvania, Scalzi grew up going to theater and musicals at Penn State, where his dad worked. Metal came into his life around age fourteen, and he became involved in his town's hardcore punk scene in the mid-1980s. He started Slough Feg in 1990, playing a kind of early thrash metal that he says was not like **Metallica**. "It was a lot more punk and loose and heavy," he said.

But Scalzi itched to head west, and moved to San Francisco. He says the music scene in the Bay Area "sucked" at the time, but he stuck with it. "I'd die playing metal on the stage in front of ten people," he reasoned. He eventually became involved in the local metal community, forming the band **Hammers of Misfortune** and helping to start the regular metal night **Lucifer's Hammer**.

Meanwhile, Scalzi continued to release albums as Slough Feg, whose other members have rotated consistently. The band took various approaches. A video from 1994 on YouTube shows the band performing, flanked by tiki torches, and a long-haired, shirtless Scalzi resembling Tarzan. They used to wear corpsepaint and throw pig guts into the audience, he said — "anything to get noticed." However, the band gained more recognition in Europe, where it tours frequently, than the states.

That seems to be changing. For *Animal Spirits*, the band's eighth album and first on label **Profound Lore**, Scalzi aimed for a simpler, more "pop"-oriented approach. "I'm trying to write songs that are short and catchy," he said.

Yet at times such tunes seemed difficult for him. One catchy riff he came up with was so generic that he didn't want to record it, and only did so at the urging of his band mates. So he wrote lyrics about why he didn't like it (e.g., *a thousand riffs they sound the same!*) and gave it the title "Free Market Barbarian." "And then it got kind of cool because it's a self-referencing indie maneuver," said Scalzi. "But it's a reaction to what's going on, just talking about boxes of cereal on the shelf. You just become another product when you write songs like that, which is okay if that's what you want, but it's pretty boring these days when you hear recycled riffs, high-concept records that have no content at all, just something that sounds vaguely like **Blue Cheer** and **Black Sabbath**, and you've heard that a thousand million times, we don't need to do it again."

Which begs the question: Couldn't someone make the same criticism about Slough Feg? "That's true, we sound like an old metal band," Scalzi conceded. "But we're not doing a third-rate version of it in my opinion. ... Second rate, at worst. And I don't think we sound just like any of those bands. The vocals are a little bit different, the lyrics are a little bit different, and we do weirder-sounding riffs. That's the best I can do to be original, I think. But we're not really called generic very often or throwback. Usually people say 'This band is too weird,' not the other way around. I mean some of our stuff sounds like **Gilbert and Sullivan**."

Indeed, Scalzi's lyrics are on par with the drama of the music. The triumphant, pirate-sounding "Kon Tiki" regales the tale of a Norwegian explorer, **Thor Heyerdahl**, who sailed from Peru to the Polynesian islands on a homemade raft in the 1940s, trying to prove how humans populated far-flung locales. Scalzi takes liberty with the material (mostly, he says, because he ran out of things to say), singing about Polynesian gods, pig roasts, and hiding in trees. "A lot of the lyrics come out of the music itself," he explained. "You can't sing about driving down the highway on tour feeling like shit to like an epic riff that sounds like you should be singing about **King Arthur**. So you have to adapt."

He may be short on inspiration at times, but clearly Scalzi is creative — and educated — enough to pull it off. He has a master's degree in philosophy and teaches at **Diablo Valley College**. He said he gave *Animal Spirits* a theological, medieval theme "just for pure fun."

Despite Scalzi's disdain for most modern metal, he says his passion for the music is just as strong as ever. He has an eight-track in his studio, and is pondering putting out a succession of live-recorded singles, then compiling them into an album. "To me, being a musician is not about sitting in front of a computer," he said. Scalzi ordered half-inch tapes off eBay, which ended up being old leftover recordings and demos from **Motown**. "Our ultimate fantasy is to get signed to Motown," he said, without a hint of irony. "I don't think it will happen, but wouldn't that be rad though?" ●

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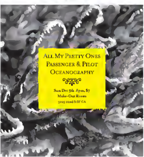

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SOUND OF SPIRIT

Con Brio attempts to define itself

By Emma Silvers

Con Brio

"Baby-making music" is generally a good fallback for any band that elides easy categorization. And it's a serviceable catch-phrase for **Con Brio**, a local quintet that's still searching for self-definition. How else to describe formally trained musicians and a raw, startlingly talented vocalist? After nearly two years of playing together, the band members say that's still a point of contention. Funk jazz-blues? Blues-funk soul? Fusion jazz-something? Pianist **Micah Dubreuil** goes with "baby-making." Bassist and sometime-trumpeter **Jonathan Kirchner** offers "music to freak to."

From a fan's perspective, the genre thing isn't really a problem. Con Brio had already built up a large following before dropping its debut record *From the Hip* in July. It sold out the release party at **Cafe du Nord**, then packed the same venue in October, despite torrential rain and competition from a **Giants-Phillies** playoff game. Turnout wise, the band has good reason to be optimistic.

Born in the spring of 2009 after singer/guitarist **Xandra Corpora** posted an ad on **Craigslist**, Con Brio — named for a musical directive that means "with spirit" — came together through a haphazard series of friend dates and open mic jazz sessions around San Francisco. For a barely two-year-old band made up of twentysomethings, its fan base is impressive in both size and age range. But it's not hard to see why. An apparently indefinable concoction of bass-heavy funk rhythms, layered organ and piano, sumptuous trumpet and tenor saxophone, and light percussion (from regular drummer **Andrew Laubacher** and semi-regular guest drummer **Cliff Tune**), the band's sound is that of seasoned musicians balancing respect for technical composition with a healthy love of improvisation — and clearly having a blast with it. An almost calypso-style melody will announce itself midway through a song, and five minutes later the band members will sound like they're scoring a Blaxploitation film. Their stage presence is simultaneously professional and laid-back and infectious. They dare you not to dance.

And then there's Corpora's voice.

"She just sounds *pure*," says one middle-aged guy waiting in line for merchandise at Cafe du Nord. "She hits these amazing notes, but she makes it sound easy."

"People tell me I sound black," Corpora said matter-of-factly. "That's the most consistent thing I hear." It's true that the strength and richness of her vocals don't seem to match up with her physical appearance. At first glance it does seem somewhat like an unassuming, 26-year-old white girl in jeans and T-shirt somehow became possessed by **Etta James**. And while it's no surprise when she names powerhouses like **Lauryn Hill** and **Christina Aguilera** as vocal inspirations, it is a little shocking to hear that Corpora has only been singing "in front of people, and with intent" for the past three years.

"I really just listened to what my parents listened to as a kid," Corpora said, recalling her childhood in the Owens Valley. "A lot of **B.B. King, Beach Boys, Elton John, Rolling Stones** — and a lot of opera, so I definitely have an appreciation for folks who can belt like they're a conduit of faith." Intimidated by the idea that in order to be a musician one had to be almost magical — somehow effortlessly perfect — Corpora says she never took her own musical inclinations seriously. "It wasn't until I was exposed to mediocre musicians as a young adult that I really started to gain confidence in what I was doing. I started to think, *Hey, anyone can do this*," she recalled. "And that's when I got up in front of a group of people, closed my eyes, and just barfed my soul onto everyone."

Show Details
At the Elbo Room (647 Valencia St., San Francisco) on Wednesday, Dec. 1 (9 p.m., $8; Elbo.com) and at The Starry Plough (3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley) on Thursday, Dec. 16 (9 p.m., $8; StarryPloughPub.com)

Her lyrics and delivery, sometimes painfully earnest and full of old-soul attitude, do little to support any misguided notion of Corpora as an amateur. (With a song that starts out *I can't relate to all you fuckers*, they're also part of what keeps the band from being mistaken for your father's jazz standards.) Her bandmates are quick to offer that, despite the fact that she is — unlike the rest of the band — technically untrained, Corpora's writing is incredibly sophisticated.

"She writes really rich, compositionally interesting stuff," Kirchner said. He doubles as Corpora's roommate — which is, he says, quite convenient for trying out new material. "We just communicate through different languages."

"It's basically a lot of repetition, for me," the singer assured with a laugh. Lounging on Cafe du Nord's plush red couches over beers before the show, they're an obviously tight-knit crew — all of them quick to make fun of each other but all serious about the music.

"It's more vocally driven for the band than people might realize," tenor saxophonist **Nate Fowle** explained. "It might not be obvious but the whole compositional process comes out of her voice. And she's really good about letting us have our way with the songs. I feel really fortunate to add my piece to everything when it comes through." That jumble of everyone's personal tastes is part of what keeps it fun, he added. "We try and open the songs up a little bit, keep things fresh. We're all trying to be creative in a different way at every show."

Aside from figuring out how to define their sound succinctly (again, judging from the ass-shaking, merch-buying, seemingly blissed-out crowd, it's not much of a problem) and the occasionally troublesome issue of none of the band members having a car ("We've gotten really good at configuring an absurd number of instruments into a cab," explains Kirchner), Con Brio's main challenge right now is a lack of time.

"Some of us are working full-time jobs, so we obviously don't have the time we would like to work on our music," said Corpora. "But I think our collective goal is to dedicate ourselves fully to our craft." Things are rolling forward on that front. Plans for 2011 include a national tour and, hopefully, a second album by the end of the year. *From the Hip* has done well in the short time it's been out thanks to word-of-mouth, local radio attention, and considerable hustle on the band's part. They're currently playing about a gig a week — sometimes more — in both San Francisco and the East Bay, and they apparently have energy to spare.

"We just want to make people dance," said Corpora, "and have a damn good time doing it." ●

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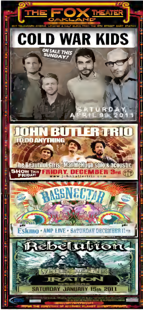
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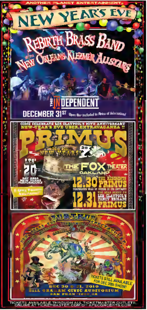
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CD REVIEWS

HEAR CANDY

Power pop, baroque jazz, and swampy soul

The Posies

Blood/Candy

Driven by founding members **Ken Stringfellow** and **Jon Auer**, **The Posies** are that one Seattle-area band able to call **Nirvana** and **Pearl Jam** peers sans the off-the-chart success of either group. And while most of the past two decades has found Stringfellow and Auer making the band an on-again, off-again affair, the duo resurrected The Posies in earnest, its seventh studio record. At the heart of this current batch of material is muscular guitar-driven pop. But in taking on the production themselves, Stringfellow and Auer have come up with a slightly more polished sound, spiked by a bit of experimentation that occasionally falls short.

"Accidental Architecture" comes off sounding like **Paul Simon** on a prog-rock bender, with its combination of odd time changes, kazoo-like organ runs, and odd declarations (e.g. *There's architecture in the way you care/with the form of a dream and reality's ghost still there*). Not quite as head-scratching but equally out-of-character is "Licenses to Hide," a collaboration with **Broken Social Scene**'s **Lisa Lobsinger** which goes from delicate piano ballad to rousing sing-along within a few bars. Fear not, as The Posies haven't abandoned their core musical values. There's the hearty, harmonious, acoustic strum of "So Caroline," fuzz guitar-soaked, swaggering romantic kiss-off "Take Care of Yourself," and melancholic jangle of "The Glitter Prize."

Diehards yearning for the sounds of *Dear 23* and *Frosting on the Beater* may be disappointed, but there's still plenty of ear candy for power-pop fans to sup on. (Rykodisc)

— *Dave Gil de Rubio*

At The Independent (1111 California St., SF) on Sunday, Dec. 5, 8 p.m., $20. TheIndependentSF.com

Taylor Eigsti

Daylight at Midnight

South Bay-raised pianist **Taylor Eigsti** has plenty of right to be choosy. At 26-years-old, he's advanced from child prodigy-dom to young lion-dom with relative ease, toured with **James Moody** and **Gretchen Parlato** and garnered accolades from **Dave Brubeck**. As a sideman, he's shared stages with the most promising young stars in jazz. As a leader, he's careful to work with people who match his quiet, exacting sensibility. That explains the choice of personnel on Eigsti's new album *Daylight at Midnight*. Most tracks feature a quartet — **Eric Harland** on drums, **Harish Raghavan** on bass, **Becca Stevens** providing vocals and various adornments — but occasionally, Eigsti goes solo or plays with Stevens. His interpretation of the **Imogen Heap** tune "Little Bird" sounds delicate, for all its complex keyboard lines. Part of the beauty derives from depth and contrast, as Stevens floats girlishly over the fat, globby bass notes of Eigsti's Fender Rhodes. It's arresting.

TAYLOR EIGSTI

Eigsti is a very baroque-sounding pianist, even though he grew up playing jazz standards and funk. Just listen to his thoughtful rendition of "Secreto" by 20th-century Catalan composer **Federico Mompou**. Or his forceful comping on "Magnolia," and the **Nick Drake** cover "Pink Moon." Many songs on *Daylight* are closer to indie rock than jazz. They don't swing in the traditional be-bop way, and they seldom hew to a simple verse-chorus-bridge format. "Little Bird" and the Eigsti-Stevens original "Midnight After Noon" show the promiscuous quality of Eigsti's muse. That said, it's a carefully crafted album. Eigsti is not really a genre purist — he's evidently more concerned with tonal coherence. It's that approach that makes this album wonderful. (Concord Jazz)

— *Rachel Swan*

At Yoshi's (510 Embarcadero, Oakland) on Wednesday, Dec. 8, 8 & 10 p.m., $12-$20. Yoshis.com

Kenny Neal

Hooked on Your Love

On his second album for the **Blind Pig** label, Palo Alto-based singer, guitarist, and harp blower **Kenny Neal** continues to delve into blues, Southern soul, as well as the Louisiana swamp-blues style with which father, the late **Raful Neal**, was associated. The pronounced twang in Kenny's tenor pipes is especially fitting in the country-tinged ballad "Old Friends," which also features his plaintive harmonica. It's one of the strongest tunes in the set, although the composer's name is not given. The CD booklet credits Neal as the composer of "Blind, Crippled, or Crazy," a terrific soul song that's actually "I'd Rather Be Blind, Crippled & Crazy," a 1973 R&B hit by **O.V. Wright**. Other oldies covered on the disc are **Little Milton**'s "If Walls Could Talk," **William Bell**'s "New Lease on Life," and **Bobby Bland**'s "Ain't Nothing You Can Do," all of which list the correct songwriters.

Kenny is a fine tunesmith in his own right, however, having apparently penned seven of a dozen songs on the disc, of which the title track is especially outstanding. He applies a **Z.Z. Hill**-like grit to many of them, and his guitar fills and solos are models of soulful understatement. Keeping it in the family, Kenny's brothers Fredrick (keyboards) and Darnell (bass) and son Kenny Jr. (drums) play on many selections. Pianist **Lucky Peterson** also lends his hands to the proceedings, and **B.B. King**'s horn section gives extra punch to one track. (Blind Pig)

— *Lee Hildebrand*

At Velma's (2246 Jerrold Ave., San Francisco) on Saturday, Dec. 4, 9 p.m., $15. 415-824-4606

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LOCAL LICKS

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Fuckin' Liar!

After Midnight Productions

The Works

Every once in a while you'll find that nobody-of-a-rapper who nonetheless proves formidable. After Midnight's new compilation is full of such unknowns: **Jo-Nathan**, who chimes in on the first "Jyeah" on his opening verse; **Feezany**, who judiciously uses the construction "I am..." then corrects himself; and **Barnone**, who never drops a beat. Who are these guys, and where have they been hiding? (AMP Studios)

Desoto Reds

Roaming Across the Infinite Plain

If **Desoto Reds** used more chord variation between verses and choruses, it would be a terrific retro-rock band. It has the other parts down: beachy guitar riffs, choirboy harmonies that fall just a hair flat, tambourine banging in the background. Nearly every song wafts on a blanket of la-lee-lahs and ooh-wee-oohs, which make the music seem buoyant. That said, the codas are way too long. (self-released)

Blisses B

Thirty Days, Sixty Years

Noah Libby has one of the more distinctive voices in local rock, not quite beautiful, but it's definitely got a pleasant, grainy twang. Libby fronts the band **Blisses B**, an alt-country quartet with a vast string section: Both Libby and **Benjamin Keegan** double on mandolin and banjo, while **Nicholas Testa** alternates between bass and twelve-string guitar. **Matthew Mellrade** plays shakers, tambourines, and traps. That combination makes for a captivating album. (self-released)

At Bottom of the Hill (1233 17th St., San Francisco) on Jan. 8, 9 p.m., $10

Superego

Fuckin' Liar EP

The album jacket — boobs with no nipples, cartoon hand flipping the bird, red letters that look like they were carved into the paper — makes you think ... metal, maybe? Sludge rock? Actually, Superego is a throwback to Nineties grunge, with mildly gutsy hooks and ill-tempered lyrics. On the opening track, singer **J J Jenkins** wails about having to pay for blow jobs on Capp Street, after some woman does him wrong. Damn, son. (self-released)

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New Years Eve Guide
Publication date: December [illegible]
Advertising deadline: December 17
It will be impossible to stay home on December 31 once you've read this guide. If it's an East Bay party, we'll have it covered. You can find the all night bashes, the high-end romantic date nights, the black tie fundraising events, and local countdowns to 2011. Whether you're renting a limo or riding your bike you can find the perfect way to celebrate the New Year.

Education & Careers Section
Publication date: [illegible]
Advertising deadline: December 30, 2010
Our Education & Careers section will feature articles about [illegible] enrollment [illegible] educational [illegible] ed to com[illegible] with the S[illegible] employment [illegible]od. And we will focus on [illegible] with an [illegible] ployment [illegible] ended advertising section [illegible] o capitalize [illegible] people's [illegible] related New Year's resolut[illegible]

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Top 100 Restaurants 2009 & 2010 SF Chronicle

SAN FRANCISCO
Wed. Dec 1 [illegible]
CANADIAN BRASS
Thurs. Dec 2 (8pm) tomorrow!
AL STEWART
Thurs. Dec 2 (10:30pm) tomorrow!
THE MIGHTY DIAMONDS
Dec 3-5 this weekend!
MIKE STERN BAND
with [illegible] BRECKER, DENNIS CHAMBERS, ANTHONY JACKSON
Mon. Dec 6 next week!
RAUL MALO
Tues. Dec 7 next week!
10th Anniversary Celebration of the Equal Rights Society
MARCUS SHELBY JAZZ ORCHESTRA
[illegible]
Wed. Dec 8
BIG BAD VOODOO DADDY
Wild and Swingin' Holiday Party
Dec 9-12
LOS VAN VAN
Only Northern California Appearance in 2010!
The Rolling Stones of Latin Music

oakland
Wed. Dec 1 [illegible]
FRANK JACKSON
Thurs. Dec 2 tomorrow!
ROBIN OUHE
Dec 3-5 this weekend!
RAVI COLTRANE
Mon. Dec 6 next week
JAZZSCHOOL STUDIO BAND
Tues. Dec 7 next week!
STEVE SMITH, GEORGE BROOKS
PRASANNA: RAGA BOP TRIO
Wed. Dec 8
TAYLOR EIGSTI
Dec 9-12
CHARLIE HUNTER
Tues. Dec 14
Allison Miller's BOOM TIC BOOM
[illegible]
Wed. Dec 15
MARIA MULDAUR'S CHRISTMAS SHOW
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CONCERTS & CLUBS

ON SALE THIS WEEK

Accept: w/ [illegible]. Sale Sunday Dec. 14 at 10 a.m. [illegible] April [illegible] 8 p.m. $30-$32. The Regency Center, 1290 Sutter St.
Eviction: w/ [illegible]. Tickets on sale Sunday Dec. [illegible] at 10 a.m. Fri. March 11, 9 p.m. $20-$25. The Regency Center, 1290 Sutter St.
Regency United: tickets on sale Sunday, Dec. 5 at 10 a.m. Sat. Feb. 26, 8 p.m., $30-$32. The [illegible] St.
Warriors: Tickets on sale Sunday, Dec. 5 at 10 a.m. Sat. [illegible] 8 p.m., $30. The Warfield, 982 Market St.
Symphony X: w/ [illegible]. Thu. May 5, 8 p.m., $28-$30. The Regency Center, 1290 Sutter St.

THURSDAY 2

EAST BAY

All Ages

Live [illegible]: [illegible] P.A. w/ [illegible] provided. [illegible], 8:30 p.m. $5

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] Mama Buzz, 7-8 p.m. free
[illegible] Cafe Van [illegible] 7-9 p.m. free
[illegible] Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m. $22.50-$24.50

Classical & Opera

[illegible] /The [illegible] of Jazz at Arts [illegible] Conducted by Dr. [illegible] Sumner. Paramount [illegible] 7:30 p.m.

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Yoshi's, 8 p.m. $18
[illegible] Quinn's Lighthouse, 8 p.m. free

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ The [illegible]. [illegible] 9 p.m. $8
The [illegible] [illegible] Sports Bar, 10 p.m. free
[illegible] Soul w/ special guests. The New Parish, 9 p.m. $12-$15

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible] w/ [illegible]. [illegible] 9 p.m. $12
[illegible] The Regency, 7:30 p.m. $8-$10

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Al [illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 p.m. $15
Annie [illegible] "The Folk Opera" w/ [illegible] Swedish American Hall, 8 p.m. $12-$15
[illegible] Boys w/ [illegible] & The [illegible] Three. [illegible], 9 p.m. $10

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] musical revue and spoof of pop-culture figures in which [illegible] travels around the world in search of [illegible]. Club Fugazi, 8 p.m. $25-$77
[illegible] San Francisco-based sextet performs live jazz and blues. Top of the Mark, 7:30-11:30 p.m. $10

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible] & The Human [illegible]. [illegible], 8 p.m. $13
[illegible] & The [illegible] w/ [illegible]

[illegible] & [illegible]. The [illegible], 8 p.m. $12, $14
[illegible] w/ The [illegible] of [illegible] & [illegible]. [illegible] p.m. $1
[illegible] Cafe du Nord, 9 p.m. $10-$12
[illegible] w/ The [illegible] Foundation & La [illegible]. Bottom of the Hill, 9 p.m. $10-$12

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible] [illegible] p.m. $10
[illegible] [illegible] 9:30 p.m. free
The Mighty Diamonds Yoshi's San Francisco, 10:30 p.m. $15, $22

FRIDAY 3

EAST BAY

All Ages

First Fridays Open Mic [illegible] open mic hosted by [illegible]. [illegible] 7:30-10 p.m. $5, under 18 free

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m. $22.50-$23.50
First Friday Follies burlesque night w/ MC [illegible]. [illegible] 9 p.m. free

Classical & Opera

Pacific Chamber Symphony [illegible] [illegible] $7-$39

Gospel & Vocal

The Oakland [illegible] East Bay Gay Men's [illegible] Presents... "[illegible]" [illegible] Valley Presbyterian Church, 5 p.m. [illegible]

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Jupiter, 5 p.m. free
[illegible] Yoshi's, Dec. 3-4 [illegible] p.m. $12-$18, $20, $5 for children's [illegible]

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible] & [illegible]. The [illegible], 9 p.m. free
[illegible] Trio w/ The [illegible]. [illegible] p.m. $29.50
[illegible] [illegible] 8 p.m. $7
[illegible] [illegible] Club, 8-9 p.m. free
[illegible] [illegible] 8 p.m. free
[illegible] & Salvage Co. [illegible]. The New Parish, 10 p.m. $8-$12
[illegible] w/ [illegible] & [illegible]. [illegible] 9:30 p.m. $8

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] [illegible] Pavilion, 8:30 p.m. $25-$50
[illegible] [illegible] Pavilion, 8 p.m. $20-$25, $50

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible] Benefit concert for [illegible] programs & scholarship fund. La Peña Cultural Center, 7:30 p.m. $15-$25
[illegible] [illegible] guitar [illegible], 7:30 p.m. free
[illegible] Cuban Salsa [illegible], 9:30 p.m. $10-$12

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] & [illegible] [illegible] 9 p.m. midnight, free
[illegible] featuring [illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, Dec. 3-4, 8 & 10 p.m. $15-$18, $20, $6 for children's [illegible]
[illegible] & The [illegible] w/ [illegible] & [illegible]. Cafe du Nord, 9 p.m. $10-$15

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] [illegible] musical revue and spoof of pop-culture figures in which [illegible] travels around the world in search of [illegible]. Club Fugazi, 8 p.m. $25-$77
[illegible] Ensemble [illegible] & Records, 5:30-8 p.m. free
[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible] and [illegible] Art House, 9 p.m. $10-$12

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible] & [illegible]. [illegible] 9 p.m. $12-$15
The [illegible] w/ The [illegible] & [illegible]. Bottom of the Hill, 8:30 p.m. $10-$12
[illegible] w/ Triple [illegible] & [illegible] Family Players. The Independent, 9 p.m. $15-$17
[illegible] w/ [illegible]. [illegible] 5 p.m. $10
[illegible] w/ [illegible]. [illegible] Tavern, 9:30 p.m. $5
[illegible]'s [illegible] Birthday Bash w/ [illegible], [illegible] & Weekend. [illegible] 9 p.m.

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] Party w/ People Under The Stairs w/ [illegible]. [illegible], 9 p.m. $19

SATURDAY 4

EAST BAY

All Ages

[illegible] w/ art by Eric [illegible], [illegible], [illegible] Collective. 8 p.m. free

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] featuring Blue [illegible] Express & Hot Pink Feathers. Cafe Van Kleef, 9 p.m. $11
[illegible] Mama Buzz, 7-8 p.m. free
East Bay [illegible] [illegible] country, bluegrass, [illegible]. The Hotsmoot Lounge, 10 p.m. free

Classical & Opera

[illegible] Concert & Chamber [illegible] Holiday Concert Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church, 7:30 p.m. $10-$40
Holy Names University Winter Chorus Concert w/ pieces by [illegible], [illegible], [illegible] and [illegible] performed by the HNU Chamber Singers, plus student conductors. [illegible] Theater, 1:30 p.m. $5-$10
Philharmonia [illegible] Orchestra [illegible] Anniversary [illegible] First Congregational Church of [illegible]. Dec. 4-5 7:30 p.m. $36

Gospel & Vocal

The Oakland East Bay Gay Men's Chorus Presents... "[illegible]" St. Paul's Episcopal Church [illegible] 7:30 p.m. $15-$20
[illegible] Interfaith Gospel [illegible] Holiday Concert Paramount Theatre, 7:30 p.m. $30-$40

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Performing [illegible] The Complete [illegible] and Partitas for Solo Violin. [illegible] Hall, 5 p.m. $45, $60, $80, $100
[illegible] & Trio [illegible] Gallery, 7 p.m.

PICKS

animal prufrock

animal prufrock was half of the Indiana feminist songwriting/performing duo **Bitch & Animal**. After the duo's amicable demise, Animal moved to San Francisco and started working on *congratulations: thank you + i'm sorry*, a solo project that took two years to complete. **Ani DiFranco** produced the set, a collection marked by the expected adventurous blend of hip-hop, folk, disco, and jazz. **prufrock**'s lyrics continue to dance between a humorous, in-your-face genderfuck attitude and heart-melting, deeply emotional meditations on the many faces of love and sexuality. Prufrock celebrates the release of *Congratulations* at **The Hotel Utah Saloon** (500 4th St., San Francisco) on Wednesday, Dec. 8, 9 p.m., $10-$20 sliding scale. TheHotelUtahSaloon.com *— J. Poet*

animal prufrock

Wu-Tang Clan & The Jacka

Probably the best-organized rap cabal of all time, **Wu-Tang Clan** is known for being an incubator that's generated such stars as **Rza, Method Man,** and **Ghostface Killah**, after all, and for being the nucleus of a strange, ardent fan culture. Take the group of guys who stood at the back of the room during Ghostface's recent show at Slim's, name-checking every song title and rapping along line-by-line. That's not something you'd find elsewhere in hip-hop. Even the most zealous **Eminem** fan probably wouldn't take the time to collect all his mixtapes, or memorize every lyric. Indeed, this week's Wu-Tang show at **Mezzanine** (444 Jessie St., San Francisco) will probably attract a lot of people who not only know every member of Wu-Tang, but also know the whole oeuvre of each rapper's career. Expect to see vinyl copies of *36 Chambers* flapping in the air. **The Jacka** opens, along with **DJ M Rock**. On Thursday, Dec. 2, 9 p.m., $45-$55. MezzanineSF.com *— Rachel Swan*

Ravi Coltrane

Ravi Coltrane Quartet

In his seven-year career as a professional jazz saxophonist, **Ravi Coltrane** certainly has lived up to his awesome lineage as the second son of **John and Alice Coltrane**. The New York saxman was only two when his dad died, but he has absorbed the essence of John's probing, profoundly spiritual approach to music, along with influences from such other players as **Steve Coleman and Ornette Coleman**, to forge a path of his own, both as an improviser and composer. And like his father, Ravi plays both soprano and tenor saxophones and works in a quartet format, currently with Venezuelan pianist **Luis Perdomo** (who has recorded two CDs for Ravi's RKM Music label), Swedish bassist **Massimo Biolcati**, and Florida-born drummer **E.J. Strickland**. This stunningly cohesive unit appears at Yoshi's (510 Embarcadero West, Oakland) on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 3 and 4, at 8 and 10 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 5, at 2 and 7 p.m. $12-$20. Yoshis.com *— Lee Hildebrand*

Roger Waters

It's easy to feel cynical upon hearing that **Roger Waters** is going on the road with *The Wall Live*, given the fact that outside of the three solo albums he's released since he left **Pink Floyd** in 1985, most of his projects have involved revisiting this album or *Dark Side of the Moon*. The big deal here is Waters commemorating the thirtieth anniversary of the album's release, not to mention a huge stage production that far surpasses the original high-tech tour in 1980. Recent shows performed during the East Coast swing of the tour proved this multimedia extravaganza to be more than a rote run-through of the original double-album. In addition to the impressive amount of bells and whistles poured into his performance, Waters also weaves in editorial asides against materialism, the endless thread of global wars waged in the past century and the resulting modern-day terrorism that's sidetracked any hopes of world peace. This slice of thinking-man's classic rock will undoubtedly be wrapped in a haze of marijuana smoke on Friday, Dec. 3, at **Oracle Arena** (7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland). 8 p.m., $70-$250. Coliseum.com *— Dave Gil de Rubio*

Voices of Light/ The Passion of Joan of Arc

As part of its Carl Theodor Dreyer film series, the Pacific Film Archive teams up with **The Paramount Theatre** and the Silent Film Festival to present ***Voices of Light/The Passion of Joan of Arc***. The evening combines a performance of **Richard Einhorn's** choral and orchestral work, *Voices of Light* (recorded by Anonymous 4), with a showing of Dreyer's 1928 silent film masterpiece, *The Passion of Joan of Arc*. **Dr. Mark Sumner** conducts the two hundred combined members of the **University of California Alumni Chorus**, women of **UC Berkeley's Perfect Fifth**, and UC Men's and Women's Chorale; soloists **Daniel Ebbers** and **Martin Bell**, and a 22-piece orchestra. On Thursday, Dec. 2, at least some of those forces will survive the [illegible] of the **Paramount Theatre** (2025 Broadway, Oakland). 7:30 p.m. (doors open 6:30), $25. 510-642-1412 or BAMPFA.berkeley.edu *— Jason Victor Serinus*

Jazz & Joy Taste of Jazz, 5:30 pm, free
[illegible] Jazzschool, 8 pm, $15
Ravi Coltrane Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $12 $18, $20, $5 for children's matinee

Kids

Los Amiguitos de La Peña Saturday morning children's show w/ live music, La Peña Cultural Center, 10:30 pm, $5, kids $4

Rock & Pop

4th Street w/ Plan B & Abate, The [illegible], 8 pm, $8
The Fades w/ Tim Cohen Band, Tim Cohen's Magick Trick & Hosannas, The New Parish, 9 pm, $10-$18
RDE Presents The System Ballet w/ [illegible] & [illegible], [illegible], 9 pm, $10
Usher Syndrome Awareness Fund-Raiser w/ [illegible] w/ [illegible]

[illegible] Stork Club, 8 pm, $6

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Starry Plough, 9 pm, $8

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Brazil [illegible] w/ [illegible] w/ [illegible], Shattuck Down Low, 9 pm, $8-$10
[illegible] Subterranean Arthouse, 8 pm, $10-$20
Hanukkah Community Concert w/ [illegible], Jewish Community Center of the East Bay, 7-8:30 pm, $15
International Body Music Festival [illegible] w/ [illegible] Celebrities, [illegible] "Slapper" Barber, Elizabeth Strong, Khalid Freeman, Keith Terry & Evie Ladin, Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 pm, $20.50, $23.50
Mucho Axé Jupiter, 8 pm, free
[illegible] La Peña Cultural Center, 8 pm, $12-$15
Ras [illegible] & The Roots Connection Band w/ [illegible], Ashkenaz, 8 pm, $10, $15
Live Reggae Night w/ rotating live bands, Sweet Fingers, 9 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] [illegible] Saloon, 8 pm, free
Kenny Neal [illegible], 8 pm, $15
[illegible] Band featuring [illegible], Dennis Chambers, Anthony Jackson, Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm, $15.

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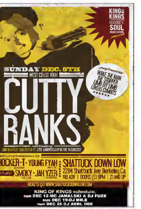

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sun DEC 19-DJ MR.E
sun DEC 26 DJ AEBL DEE

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TINY TELEVISION
FRI 12.3/ [illegible]
DIEGO'S UMBRELLA
TRIPLE COBRA • THE LOYD FAMILY PLAYERS
SAT 12.4/ [illegible]
MARCO BENEVENTO TRIO
GABBY LA LA
SUN 12.5/ Doors 7:30/ $20
THE POSIES
BRENDAN BENSON
MON 12.6/ [illegible]
THE ABYSSINIANS
NATIVE ELEMENTS • REVIVAL SOUND SYSTEM
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THE GRACIOUS FEW
DANIELLE [illegible] • RECKLESS IN VEGAS
WED 12.8/ [illegible]
THE GREENHORNES
HACIENDA
THU 12.9/ [illegible]
RANDY ROGERS BAND
WHISKEY DAWN
FRI 12.10 & SAT 12.11/ [illegible]
SOULIVE FEAT. KARL DENSON
DJ HARRY DUNCAN
SUN 12.12/ [illegible]
STORNOWAY
THE HEAD AND THE HEART
MON 12.13/ [illegible]
STARDEATH & WHITE DWARFS
[illegible]

C&C

8th. $28, $5 for Thursday ticketed

Monsters w/ Sic Ram, Big Eagle, Earl [illegible], solo! Booze Brothers, [illegible] Stew. 8 pm. $10

Pinto [illegible] w/ Saul Pablo & Kasey Boom [illegible]. 8 pm. $8

Classical & Opera

Dueling Harpsichords: Radio [illegible] (Italian) Influences w/ Jungfrau Kim & Gilbert Martinez. West Holy Redeemer Church. 5 pm. $15, $20

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Dad Plus Aroma Music. 2 pm. free

[illegible] Babylon Musical revue and spoof of pop-culture figures in which Snow White travels around the world in search of Prince Charming. Club Fugazi. 7 & 11 pm. $25-$87

[illegible] Trio The Independent. 9 pm. $20

Rock & Pop

20th Anniversary Evening w/ [illegible] [illegible]. 8 pm. $15

Happy Holo Show w/ Dueling Dons plus Headlights, The [illegible], & [illegible]. Thee Parkside. 3 pm. free

Steve Harris w/ [illegible] 5 the Bobby Fuzzes, & [illegible]. 8 pm. $10, $12

[illegible] w/ Sharp Objects ([illegible]), Complaints ([illegible]), Kagela, Neighborhood [illegible],

Room Show. 6 pm. $11

Tropical Sleep w/ [illegible]. 9:30 pm. $8

Yang Mars w/ [illegible] Cafe du Nord. 9:30 pm. $10, $12

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] & United D Productions Present: [illegible] Great American Music Hall. 5 pm. $35-55

[illegible] Productions Presents: Africa Rising! Featuring [illegible] Connes & [illegible] DJ Jeremiah & [illegible]. CUBA. 9 pm. $10

More Listings Online

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SUNDAY 5

EAST BAY

All Ages

[illegible] [illegible] 3-4:30 pm. $4, $6

Open Mic hosted by Lil' Boy Blue [illegible]. Long Haul. 1 pm. free

Blues, Folk & Country

Eric Williamson Holiday Show w/ [illegible], Bonnie Hayes, & [illegible]. Fourth Street Studio. 7 pm. $24.50-$29.50

Jimmy's All-Star Jersey Sessions Jimmy hosts a different house band every week.

Peter's Restaurant. 5 pm. free

Classical & Opera

Oakland [illegible] & Chamber Ensemble [illegible] Directed by David [illegible]. First Presbyterian Church. 3 pm. $10-$40

Philharmonia Berkeley Weekend 20th Anniversary Season [illegible] First Congregational Church of Berkeley. 7:30 pm. $35

[illegible] Hertz Hall. 3 pm. $50

Valley [illegible] Presents [illegible] Trinity Lutheran Church of Pleasanton. 3-4:30 pm. $15, $20, $25

Gospel & Vocal

The Oakland - East Bay Gay Men's Chorus Presents... "[illegible]" on the Air! St. Paul's Episcopal Church [illegible]. 6 pm. $13-$20

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Jim Grantham Jazz [illegible] [illegible] contemporary jazz. [illegible]. 3-6 pm. free

[illegible] Yoshi's. 2 & 7 pm. $12, $18, $22, $5 for children's tickets

Theopolis Trump Jazzschool. 4:30 pm. $15

Rock & Pop

Dick Dale w/ special guest Jimmy Dale w/ The Bitter Honeys. The Uptown. 8 pm. $20

[illegible] Paramount Theatre. free

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924 Gilman 924 Gilman St., Berkeley. 510-525-9926

Air Bar & Lounge [illegible] St., [illegible]. 510-444-2327

Albatross Pub 1822 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2473, AlbatrossPub.com

The Alley 3325 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-444-8505

[illegible] 2455 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-1128.

Armando's 707 Marina Vista Ave., Martinez. 925-228-6685

Art House Gallery & Cultural Center 2905 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-472-3170

Ashkenaz 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-525-5054

[illegible] 4825 Hopyard, Pleasanton. 925-[illegible]

Bay Street Mall 5616 Bay St., Emeryville

Beckett's 2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-647-1790

[illegible] and Bar 510 17th St., Oakland. 510-444-2266

Frank Bette Center for the Arts 1601 Lincoln St., Alameda. 510-523-6957

The Bistro 1001 B St., Hayward. 510-886-8525

Blakes on Telegraph 2367 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-0886.

Caffe Trieste 2500 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-5198

[illegible] 175 E. Vineyard Ave., Livermore. [illegible]

[illegible] 1220 2220 Pine St., [illegible]. 925-938-4550

Club 21 2111 Franklin St., Oakland. 510-268-9425

[illegible] 420 3rd St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]

Coffee Mill 3363 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-465-4224

[illegible] 629 Ferry St., Martinez. 925-228-3347

Conga Lounge 5422 College Ave., Oakland. 510-463-2681

[illegible] Irish Sports Bar 1524 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-932-1318.

[illegible] Hall 2305 Alameda Ave., Alameda. 415-245-0180

[illegible] Lounge 3255 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland. 510-338-4911.

Everett & Jones Barbeque 126 Broadway, Oakland. 510-663-2350

First Congregational Church 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. 510-848-3696

First Presbyterian Church 2619 Broadway, Oakland. 510-444-3555

Fox Oakland 1807 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. TheFoxOakland.com

[illegible] 22 W. Tennyson Rd., Hayward. 510-[illegible]

Freight & Salvage 2020 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-644-2020.

Hertz Hall UC Berkeley (Bancroft Way at College Ave.), Berkeley. 510-642-9988.

[illegible] Paradise 1434 Webster St., Alameda. 510-865-3725.

Jazzschool 2087 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-845-5373

[illegible] Church of the East Bay 2414 [illegible] St., Berkeley. 510-649-1717

[illegible] Coffee & The [illegible] 1223 Park St., Alameda. 510-865-2186

Jupiter 2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-8277

[illegible] City 1468 Webster St., Oakland. 510-251-0700.

[illegible] Oakland 522 2nd St., Oakland. 510-444-6411

King [illegible] Chinese Restaurant 1609 Solano Ave., Berkeley

Kingman's Lucky Lounge 3332 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-465-5464

Kingman's Ivy Room 858 San Pablo Ave., Albany. 510-526-5888.

Kitty's [illegible] Hollis St., Emeryville. 510-601-[illegible]

La Peña Cultural Center 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568

Lake Merritt United Methodist Church 1330 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland. 510-451-4783

Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church 3534 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland. 510-893-2484

Laney College Theater 900 Fallon St., Oakland. 510-464-3543

Lost Weekend Lounge 2320 Central Ave., Alameda. 510-523-4700

Lounge 3411 3411 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland

Luka's Taproom & Lounge 2221 Broadway, Oakland. 510-451-4677

[illegible] Sports Bar & Grill 2221 N. Main St., Walnut Creek. 925-256-7065

[illegible] 341 13th Street, Oakland. 510-83[illegible]

[illegible] Lounge 2600 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-2080.

Mountain Winery 14831 [illegible] Rd., Saratoga. 408-741-2822

[illegible] 3500 [illegible] Ave., Oakland. 510-595-3344.

Oakland City Center 500 12th St., Oakland. 510-238-8830

Oakland Metro Operahouse 630 3rd St., Oakland. 510-763-1146

ORACLE Arena 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-569-2121.

[illegible] Lounge 2012 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible]

Paramount Theatre 2025 Broadway, Oakland. 510-465-6400.

The New Parish 579 18th St., Oakland. 510-444-7474. TheNewParish.com

[illegible] Restaurant 3 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette. 925-284-7311

Pleasanton Hotel 855 Main St., Pleasanton. 925-846-8106.

Quinn's Lighthouse 1951 Embarcadero Cove, Oakland. 510-536-2050.

Radio 435 13th St., Oakland

[illegible] 3553 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. 925-284-4817

[illegible] Roadhouse 1700 Clement Ave., Alameda. 510-338-6590

Ruby Room 132 14th St., Oakland. 510-444-7224

[illegible] 47011 [illegible] Rd., Fremont. 510-979-0477

Shattuck Down Low 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-1159

[illegible] 2401 San Ramon Valley Blvd. (Ste 121), San Ramon

Shoreline Amphitheatre One Amphitheatre Pkwy., Mountain View. 650-968-3000

Speisekammer 2424 Lincoln Ave., Alameda. 510-522-1300

Spoontonic Lounge 2500 N. Main St., Walnut Creek. 925-937-1888

St. Mark's Episcopal Church 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-848-5107

St. John's Presbyterian Church 2727 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-6830

Starry Plough 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-2082

Stork Club 2330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-6174

[illegible] 484 E. 14th St., San Leandro. 510-553-0000

Uptown 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-451-8100

Vinnie's Bar & Grill 2045 Mt. Diablo St., [illegible]. 925-685-5515

Wente Vineyards Restaurant 5050 Arroyo Rd., Livermore. 925-456-2450.

[illegible] Playhouse UC Berkeley Campus, Berkeley. 510-642-9988

White Horse Inn 6551 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-652-3820

Yoshi's 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland. 510-238-9200.

Zellerbach Hall UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-9988

[illegible] 553 [illegible] Ave., Oakland. 510-655-9924

5-8, 8 pm, $45.50-$150

Shellfish & Mass Amoeba w/ Heavy My Nomadic War Machine, Heavy Sugar Flow. 924 Gilman, 8-10 pm, $5-$10

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Pomegranates Family Holiday Show Featuring Western Jamaican Ashkenaz, 7:30 pm, $11

King of Kings featuring Dally Ranks Shattuck Down Low, 4 pm, $18, $25

Pomegranates & Figs: A Feast of Cosmic Rumi Zellerbach Hall, 3 pm, $20, $26, $30, $34, $48

Sahaia Saltaman's Belly Dance Nights featuring students from Sahaia Saltaman, Bissap ul Dakar Club Mandela's, 4 pm, $7

Third Game w/ special guests, The Back Porch, 9 pm, $24-$38

SAN FRANCISCO

All Ages

Songwriter Holiday! rotating artists perform in the lounge, Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm-midnight, $3

Blues, Folk & Country

Delta Blues Show featuring Randy Amoeba Dennis Chambers, Anthony Amoeba Yoshi's San Francisco, 5 & 8 pm, $15, $18, $20, $5 for children's matinee

Boyd Harvey and Western Club blues jam, Skip's Tavern, 8:30 pm, free

Young Sunday w/ Growing Bar Brew & Kinsman Thee Parkside, 4 pm, free

Classical & Opera

Madame Bovary on Bubbles for Sunday Boozy gospel brunch, Top of the Mark, 10 am-1 pm, $59 for brunch plus gratuity and tax

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Beach Blanket Babylon musical revue and Show of [illegible] in which Snow White travels around the world in search of Mr. Charming, Club Fugazi, 2 & 5 pm, $25-$77

Emperor Norton's Jazz Band, w/ Ragtime Skedaddlers, Amnesia, 8 pm, $5

Kurt Ross Trio Cheryl Plantation 5-8 pm

VENUE DIRECTORY

SAN FRANCISCO

222 Club [illegible] St., 415-440-0222
330 Ritch 330 Ritch St., 415-541-9574
Amnesia 853 Valencia St., 415-970-0012
Amoeba Music 1855 Haight St., 415-831-1200
Annie's Social Club 917 Folsom St., 415-974-1585
[illegible] 1111 Bush St., 415-171-1605
Azul Bar & Lounge 1 Tillman Pl. 415-362-8750
Bacar Restaurant and Wine Salon 448 Brannan St. 415-904-4100
Bazaar Cafe 5927 California St., 415-831-5620
Beach Chalet 1000 Great Highway, 415-386-8439
Beauty Bar 2299 Mission St. 415-285-0973
Bimbo's 365 Club 1025 Columbus Ave., 415-474-0365
Biscuits & Blues 401 Mason St. 415-292-2583
Bottom of the Hill 1233 17th St., 415-621-4455
[illegible] 3360 Mission St., 415-643-5290
Cafe du Nord 2170 Market St., 415-861-5016
Cafe International 508 Haight St. 415-558-7130
Caffe [illegible] 908 Vallejo St. 415-987-2005
Cat Club 1190 Folsom St., 415-431-3332
[illegible] 317 Bartlett St. 415-621-1722
The Cellar 685 Sutter St., 415-441-5678
[illegible] 201 9th St. 415-281-0030
Club Fugazi 678 Green St., 415-421-4222
Club Six 60 Sixth St., 415-863-1221

free

Rock & Pop

All My Pretty Ones, Passenger & Phil & Bonanography Make-Out Room, 4-11 pm

Mason Fraser w/ Sam Sunday, Cafe du Nord, 8 pm, $10

Cradlerock for the Faithfully Ramen w/ The Donkeys & the Lost Rays, Musee of the Hall, 5 pm, $12

American Kitchen featuring Tommy Mission on Dance w/ Gail Davies, Great American Music Hall, 8 pm, $35

The Bones w/ Annatai Banner & Aquadolls, The Independent, 4 pm, $20

The Awareness w/ Rattlehead, Slim's, 8 pm, $25

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Pachanga! Sunday salsa dance party w/ Orquesta La Moderna Tradición, DJ Carlos 'Way Cool' Antonio, & DJ Angel, CDBA, 4-9:30 pm, $10

Pachanga w/ [illegible] Y Su [illegible] CDBA, 4-9:30 pm, $10

MONDAY 6

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Eventolaro Flight plus special comedy guest, 5th Plant Wishbone & Lounge, 8-11 pm, $20

Kitty Gerri, Bold Session Club Dance blues Dock, 7-8 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Jazz Composer's Ensemble Jazzschool, 8:30-? pm

Jazzschool Dance Music - Keith Johnson, Amoeba Yoshi's, 8 pm, $15

Rock & Pop

Mega Amoeba The Blah The HP Pavilion, 8 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Debut 1710 Mission St., 415-552-2600
Davies Symphony Hall 201 Van Ness Ave., 415-864-6000
Dirty Martini 2801 Leavenworth St., 415-775-5110
DNA Lounge 375 11th St., 415-626-1409
Dogpatch Saloon 2496 3rd St., 415-643-8592
The Eagle Tavern 398 12th St., 415-626-0880
Edinburgh Castle 950 Geary St., 415-885-4074
El Bosque 2700 [illegible] St., 415-427-0261
El Rio 3158 Mission St., 415-282-3325
Elbo Room 647 Valencia St., 415-552-7788
Western Lounge 1838 Geary St. 415-578-1382
The Gold 4?? 9th St. 415-646-0809
The Fillmore 1805 Geary Blvd 415-346-6000
[illegible] 231 4th St. 415-386-1960
The Great Fantasy 1501 Van Ness Ave. 415-673-5716
Great American Music Hall 859 O'Farrell St. 415-885-0750
Hemlock Tavern 1131 Polk St. 415-923-0923
Herbst Theatre 401 Van Ness Ave 415-392-4400
Hotel Utah 500 4th St., 415-546-6300
The Independent 628 Divisadero St., 415-771-1421
Ireland's 32 Bar & Grill 3920 Geary Blvd. 415-386-6173
Jazz at Pearl's 256 Columbus Ave., 415-291-8255
Johnny Foley's Irish House 243 O'Farrell St. 415-954-0777
The Knockout 3223 Mission St. 415-550-6994
Levende Lounge 1710 Mission St., 415-864-5585
Madrone Lounge 500 Divisadero St. 415-241-0202
Make-Out Room 3225 22nd St. 415-647-2888

Blues, Folk & Country

The Amoeba Jam with AJ Skip's Tavern, 7:30 pm, free

Classical & Opera

Los Dividendos Mason & SF Restaurant Brewing Mission Mission Realtime 7:30 pm, $15, $30

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Le Jazz Bar Le Colonial, 7 pm, free

Club Deluxe Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $10

Rock & Pop

Dense Johnny Foley's Irish House, 9 pm, and

Said Me Lake Allen w/ Quiet Nights & Story of Sam, Elbo Room, 9 pm, $8

Mt. St. Helens Vietnam Band, w/ Thrash & 4 Bold, Rickshaw Stop, 4 pm, $10, $12

The Amoeba Beach Blues w/ Moran Mason & Ash Bulos, Hemlock Tavern, 4 pm, $5

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Abyssinians w/ Dread Dubmen & Beach Sound System, The Independent, 9 pm, $18, $20

TUESDAY 7

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Country Western Dance Night w/ Miranda Vinnie's Bar & Grill, 7:30-11 pm, and

Freight Open Mic Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 4 pm, $4.50, $5.50

Jeffery Broussard & The Beach Cowboys Cajun/Zydeco Blues lesson w/ Bobo Cantor at 8:30 pm, Reception 4:30 pm, $12

Monday Meals Pizza's Restaurant, 7:30-9 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Oaktown Tuesdays featuring Western from the Berkeley music school, Jupiter, 8 pm, free

Mezzanine 444 Jessie St., 415-625-8880
The Rookie Delta 66 West Portal Ave.
Mr. Valley Ministry 3072 Sansome St. 415-454-5338
Park Chalet Brewery 1000 Great Highway 415-386-8439
Pete's Piano Lounge 1570 Broadway St. 415-646-0018
Pier 23 The Embarcadero, 415-362-7304
Red Devil Lounge 1695 Polk St., 415-921-1695
Rebel Lounge 718 20th St., 415-626-7389
Revolution Cafe 3248 22nd St., 415-861-2011
Rickshaw Stop 155 Fell St., 415-861-2011
Roccapulco 3140 Mission St. 415-648-6611
Red Devil 222 Mason St.
San Francisco Conservatory of Music 50 Oak St., 415-503-6275
Slim's 333 11th St., 415-522-0333
Skylark 3089 16th St., 415-621-9294
Slim's 333 11th St. 415-522-0333
Space 550 550 Barneveld Ave. 415-550-8286
Sub Bar 391 6th St., 415-863-8623
SOMArts Cultural Gallery 2181 Mission St., 415-255-7227
Supperclub 657 Harrison St., 415-348-0900
Swig Bar 561 Geary St. 415-931-7292
Viracocha 998 Valencia St.
Thee Parkside 1600 17th St., 415-503-0393
Top of the Mark 1 Nob Hill 999 California St. 415-616-6916
Union Tap 353 Bush St. 415-986-1000
Velvet Lounge 443 Broadway St. 415-788-0228
The Warfield 982 Market St. 415-775-7722
Whitechapel Restaurant and Lounge 3101 Sutter St. 415-563-5005
Yoshi's San Francisco 1330 Fillmore St. 415-655-5600

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WED 9pm Free	JET SET DJ SANTERO & WISDOM new weekly dance-out. Jet set-ting featuring the latest sounds from Africa, Asia, the Americas & beyond!
THUR 10pm	JUNGLE BOOGIE DJs FROZEN, KOOL KYLE & UNCLE JOE hip hop, soul & your requests!
FRI 10pm $5	WE LUV THE TOWN DJs ZITA (B.A.S.K) & D MADNESS (KAINDMADIC DZH) hip hop, funk, dancehall and Oakland love
SAT 10pm $5 before 11pm $10 after	SMOOVE SATURDAYS RESIDENT DJ WISDOM & DJ MARCELLA AKA APPLE [illegible] hip hop, neo soul & world flavors
SUN 9pm Free	THE SOUL-FULL GLOW RESIDENT DJ ALMADEE soulful grooves you can dance to
MON 9pm Free	THREE DAY WEEKEND DJs C-MOSES & MOMOOOO SLIM vinyl hip hop & soul classics
TUES 10pm Free	SOUL FYAH DJ SERG & GUEST DJ BENROC [illegible] ART WARH / PSYHADYFEET dancehall from rock to remixes

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THUR. DEC. 2nd	BALTIC SESSIONS HOSTED BY GREG & LAWANDA ULEAN Free-Style Jam Sessions covering Americana, Folk, Blues, Jazz and Latin. Other Musicians are welcome to join in!
FRI. DEC. 3rd	REED FROMER BAND R&B and Funk
SAT. DEC. 4th	KIMBA & GRAFFITTI SOUL R&B, Jazz Standards & Funk
SUN. DEC. 5th	ADACHI & PREUSS DUO Jazz Standards
TUES. DEC. 7th	DAN DAMON Solo Piano

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C&C

Steve Smith, George Laynet, Proscenac: Fuego Big Trio Yoshi's, 8 pm, $19

Rock & Pop

Ryeitfoil's present Bob Rocklea featuring games from Rogue Wave, Crown City Rockers, Phenomenauts, Bright Eyes, & more. The Layover, 10 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Big Tree w/ The Lumineers & Kelly McFarling, Amnesia, 9:30 pm, $6

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Bombay Bombay Trio seated piano, The Regency Center, 8 & 10 pm, $21

Jazz Jam hosted by Reggi Harvey, Bird's Tavern, 8-11:40 pm, free

Dombr: Shelby Jean Orchestra Rocklea at 10th Anniversary Celebration Fundraiser Sound of the Equal Sound Society w/ Faye Carol & Kenny Washington, Yoshi's San Francisco, 6-9 pm, $75, $100 for a table of 4

Misty Jaggers Pier 23, 8:30 pm, free

Tuesday Night Jump! Tommy Jones plays with Jazz (Not It Swing) Steve Lucky Verdi Club, 9 pm, $10-$12

Rock & Pop

Oceanoants The Knockout, 8:30 pm, $6

Bedouin Soundclash w/ Moneybrother & Les Hot Bowers, Slim's, 8 pm, $15

Conspiracy of Beards w/ Ruby Howl & Gilded Poets, Cafe Du Nord, 8:30 pm, $10

Hold Spirit The Fillmore, 8 pm, $28.50

Night Five With Five Sound w/ Dombr Lee, Paper Dolls, Rupie & The April Fishes, Cameroon Social Aid & Pleasure Club, Queen Velvet & the Bedouin Reviews, Red Sky Strange Dancers, & Rob Reich, DNA, 7:30 pm, $10

The Big Sound w/ Girls with Guns & The Go-Going-Gone Girls, Bottom of the Hill, 9 pm, $10

Sunrise Fox w/ Danielle Barb, The Independent, 8 pm, $10

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Residence Party Night & Dombr for Capoeira Daviá Elbo Room, 9 pm, $5

WEDNESDAY 8

Big Bad Voodoo Daddy plays on 12/8 at Yoshi's San Francisco

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Canned Food Drive w/ The Hard Ways of Abigail Nadir, Dayvia Tea Mamo Blue, 7 pm, free

Molly's Revenge w/ Moira Smiley's Celtic Christmas celebration w/ the Rosemary Turns with Dancers, Fourth Street Studio, 8 pm, $19.50, $21.50

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Bob Sosa & the Sound Wave Rooster's Roadhouse, 7-10 pm, free

Cornell College Big Band w/ Kirk Johnson & Kids Kids College, 7:30 pm

Dombr Gold Lee Band Swiss Park, 7-9 pm, free

Taylor Night Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $12, $20

Will Brewster piano music, Campo di Bocce, 6-9 pm, free

Rock & Pop

Big Thief local music Amnesia presented by Panic Cat Radio. This week: Chicago ABC Club Crasher, & Red Paint, The Uptown, 9 pm, free

No Age w/ The Fresh & Onlys, The New Parish, 10 pm, $13-$15

Rocktime w/ Hammer Mover Classes, & The Symbolist Jews, Stork Club, 9 pm, $5

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Tommorrow's Red Seeds w/ Josh Dombr & Kid Ashkenaz, 9 pm, $10

SAN FRANCISCO

Holiday Music

Big Bad Voodoo Daddy Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $30

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

All Wednesdays featuring Amendola vs. Bunga, COVA, 9 pm, $7

Sound Dombr: Babylon musical revue and spoof of pop-culture figures in which Snow White travels around the world in search of Prince Charming, Club Fugazi, 8 pm, $25-$77

The Blue Queens/South Amendola COVA, 7 pm, $7

Dombr w/ the Mitch Boyed Session, Amnesia, 9 pm, free

Rock & Pop

Andrew Bedouin Steve w/ Hard Girls & Royal Monsters, Bottom of the Hill, 9 pm, $10

Rocktime The Fillmore, 8 pm

Blackstone Hotel w/ Deadlyce & Lloyd's Garage, Elbo Room, 9 pm, $7

Elise Dombr 7 Year Anniversary Show w/ Rabid Hotel Mark w/ Kid Panga, Chad Thayer & Danny Brannan, Hemlock Tavern, 9 pm, $7

Brainwashers w/ Hacienda, The Independent, 8 pm, $15

Reckless Kelly Slim's, 8 pm, $16

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Freddy Sound and le Sound Latin, Balkans, Mediterranean, & contemporary folk, Pele Pachamama, 8 pm, $12

Submissions for music listings should be e-mailed to Clubs@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Clubs Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland CA 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

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WED 12/8 (SPOLKYEAH) PRESENTS
NO AGE WITH THE FRESH & ONLYS
DOORS 9 PM / SHOW 10 / $13 ADV / $15 / 18+

FRI 12/10
ALBINO WITH DAVID SATORI (OF BEATS ANTIQUE)
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SAT 12/11
MELVIN SEALS & JGB
WITH STU ALLEN
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FRI 12/31 NEW YEARS EVE
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THU 12/2
LITTLE QUEENIE, HANK IV, ANGORA DERS, C'MON

FRI 12/3
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SAT 12/4
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DJ & DANCE

THURSDAY 2

EAST BAY

Academy Night w/ DJ and MC Joe G. spinning hip-hop, R&B, dancehall, & Top 40. White Horse Inn. 9 pm, $3. Mattress free w/ valid ID

House Ideas w/ DJs Kool Karlo & Chris Fox. Shattuck Down Low. 9 pm, free

Explosion Thursdays Radio. 10 pm, free

DJ Jerry Rhin spinning soul, funk, hip-hop, R&B, & more. Easy Lounge. 10 pm, free

DJ Trick spinning lounge. Lost Weekend Lounge. 9 pm-2 am, free

Flight Time spinning DJ Ben Rampo. The Layover. 10 pm, free

Oakland Vice featuring DJs Polaris, Uncle Joe. Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 10 pm, $5

Riff Raff indie pop, mash-ups, new wave. Baxter. 10 pm-2 am, free

Salvador Valentino w/ Beatlife spinning rock, electro, new wave & more. The Layover. 9:30 pm, and

Selector DJ Leigh Free Hooker, 8 pm, and

Temple of House w/ DJ Fluid Out spinning house, R&B. The Milanese Lounge. 10 pm, free

Percussion Thursdays Brilliant Highlands. 7 pm, $4

Yoruba House Sessions spinning DJs Carlos Mena and Cecil, House and DJs. 9 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Glugadela by salsa $3 Bass Ale during Bingo. The Fireplace. 7:30-10 pm, free

Room Dance w/ DJ Jelina Roth and Friends spinning salsa. The Rockhouse. 10 pm, free

Phonic rotating DJs. The EndUp. 10 pm, $10

Toppa Top Thursdays w/ Jah Warrior Hotdon, Hi-Fi, Jah Yzer, Mr Rude, & Vibe spinning reggae. Club Six. 9 pm-2 am, $8, free Bonus $5 b.m. w/ RSVP

FRIDAY 3

EAST BAY

Gin Jeb w/ DJs Eddy Raven and Mr Friends spinning free rock and slow jams. The Missouri Lounge. 10 pm, free

Club 21 w/ DJs spinning Latin music. Club 21. 9 pm, $8-$15

DJ Wild's Soul Train Soul Review The Layover. 10 pm, free

Downstairs and Lounge w/ rotating DJs. Sushi Groove. 7:30-10:30 pm, free

Danny Night Salsa w/ guest DJs spinning salsa. La Estrellita Cafe. 10 pm, $8

Get On E U K w/ Pine FM, C-Ray, Andy P, Jody Green & guests. Dumas on Telegraph. 9 pm, $10

Danny Hoover w/ DJ Octavio salsa spinning punk, rock, indie, & salsa rock. The Missouri Lounge. 9-10 pm, free

Latin Explosion DJ Jorge spins rumba, salsa, merengue, bachata, Spanish pop, & more. Dumas and Bar. 9 pm-2 am, $8-$15

Old-School hip-hop and funk. Radio. 9 pm, free

Quixotic DJ Joe Quixx spins funk, Latin, & dub. Easy Lounge. 10 pm, and

Reggae Ftwosiam Sweet Regan's. 9 pm, free

Softly Elusory DJ Leigh & Fat Boy spin R&B & soul. Kimball's Carnival. 8 pm, $5

Vybz Int'l w/ DJs Tuff under & Nestor spinning salsa reggae, dancehall, & soul. Shashamane Restaurant. 10 pm, $5

SAN FRANCISCO

Audiotech w/ The Last Antiheroes. Elbo Room. 10 pm, $10, $12

DJ Danny Rampla spinning rock, hip-hop, new wave, R&B, 80s, indie & pop. Club Bar. 9 pm, free

Lower Jeans w/ DJ Ben Rampo and guests. Make-Out Room. 10 pm, $5

SMILE evening live performers plus DJ Neil Marrinson spinning rock, funk, French pop & more. The Rockhouse. 10 pm, free

VSL Fridays w/ rotating DJs from the Bay Area and around the globe spinning hip-hop, dance. 9 pm, $10

SATURDAY 4

EAST BAY

3rd Saturdays w/ DJ Hector, Airline & Lounge. 9 pm, $10

Ebon Blended w/ DJs Ruin, salsa Tiger & guests spinning hip-hop & R&B. Dumas and Bar. 9 pm, $8-$12

Downstairs and Lounge w/ rotating DJs. Sushi Groove. 7:30-1:30 pm, free

House Saturdays Club 1220. 9 pm, $8

Magic Milk House DJ Word & guests host Kingman's Lucky Lounge. 9 pm, free

Pop History 101 DJs spin pop hits from the Ronettes to Michael Jackson. Ruby Room. 10 pm-2 am, free

Summer Saturdays DJ Juan & guests spin soul, hip-hop, R&B, salsa, reggaeton, & more. Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 9 pm, $10

The Stronghold Sound spinning DJ Bat. The Layover. 10 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Club Kingston w/ resident DJs spinning reggae & R&B. Pier 23. 9 pm, $10

Remove musical techno & avant-house w/ resident DJs Sammy D, Craig Kuna, Alland Byallu, & Nihalo Bapala. The EndUp. 10 pm, free before 11 pm, $15

Stammtisch w/ DJs spinning hip-hop and club hits. The Cellar. 9 pm, free Bonus 10 pm, $10 after

SUNDAY 5

EAST BAY

Dancehall Sundays house, funk, & more. Easy Lounge. 9 pm, free

King of Salsa DJ Smutts-Bee and guests spin reggae, dancehall, roots, & lovers' rock. Shattuck Down Low. 9 pm, $10 ladies/students free before 10 pm

Major w/ DJ Mpaud spinning soul, funk, & Afrowave old-school. Somar Bar & Lounge. 9 pm, free

Soul Sanctuary Dance Community dance. Dance optional. SoulSanctuaryDance.com. Ashkenaz. 11 am-2 pm, $8-$15, free for newcomers or children 12 & under

Dance Fee's Ole Sundays DJs spin ska, rocksteady, & early reggae. The Night Easy Club. 7 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

DJ spinning Allen Mitchell Tavern. 9 pm, free

soboi Mob DJ Vinho & guests spin and jazz, soul, & funk. Amnesia. 9 pm, and

MONDAY 6

EAST BAY

DJ Augh spinning dub, jazz, & soul. Easy Lounge. 9 pm, free

The Fix w/ DJ Matthew Africa. The Layover. 10 pm, free

Bass Hero ft Bebe w/ Gara 4 pm-8 p.m. & Mike B 8 pm-2 a.m. Club 1220. 4 pm-2 am, free

Hip-Hop Night guest DJs spin hip-hop, new wave & electro. Ruby Room. 10 pm-2 am, free

Underground Lounge psycho billy & piano music. Radio. 10 pm-2 am, free

TUESDAY 7

EAST BAY

DJ Jeff Gunn spinning salsa & Latin funk. Easy Lounge. 9 pm, free

DJ Buzzy spinning punk. Lost Weekend Lounge. 9 pm-2 am, free

In the House DJ Benerez spins soulful, deep & funky house. Spin Ultra Lounge & Gourmet Pizza. 9 pm, free

Soul Fyah DJs Sarg, Kool Kyle, & guests spin reggae, dancehall, & grooves. Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 10 pm, free

Vintage spinning DJ Toph One & weekly guests spinning deep cuts from the 60's through tomorrow. Lavender East. 7 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Vintage 1069 w/ DJ Stanley and guests spinning disco, 80's and house. Triple Crown. 10 pm, $3

Tormento w/ DJs Christian Darwish, Danny Fox, Demon O, MEIN, & guests spinning late 80s and early '90s hip-hop. The Cellar. 10 pm, free

WEDNESDAY 8

EAST BAY

Flamenco Delight w/ DJ Riky spinning Brazilian funk, & more. Kitty's. 9 pm, free

The Jump Off! House Pop HipHop w/ DJs spinning hip-hop. Club 21. 9 pm, $6-$10

Percussion Latin cowboy night w/ host. Violeta Zocalo and Bar. 7 pm, $8-$25

Slippery Wet Wednesdays poetry, open mic, and live DJ. Taves. 10 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

1002 Nights DJ Cheb i Sabbah spins North African & Middle Eastern grooves. Underground SF. 9 pm, $5

Vintage Wednesday DJs Strategy, Junot, & Reef Ego spin classics, hip-hop, reggae, funk, & soul. Skylark. 10 pm, $5

PICK

"The Fix" with DJ Matthew Africa

No reason to come up with an avatar when your given name is as lovely and mellifluous as **Matthew Africa**. A KALX veteran who graduated from the *African American* studies department at **UC Berkeley** — and followed up with a law degree from Boalt — Africa is small, freckled, fine featured, and formidable on the wheels of steel, playing everything from classic hip-hop, to rock, to reggaeton. He currently helms Monday night parties at **The Layover** (1517 Franklin St., *Oakland*), which cater to local bikers. In addition to music and beer-swilling, mechanics from **The Roll Up Bike Shop & Art Space** will be on hand to pimp up your two-wheeler. **"The Fix"** happens Monday nights at 10 p.m. Free. OaklandLayover.com *Rachel Swan*

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GRAHAM PATZNER, DAVE SMALLEN
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LEGAL NOTICES

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER [illegible]
Superior Court of California County of [illegible]
1225 Fallon Street
Oakland, CA 94612
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner [illegible] filed a petition with this court for a decree changing name as follows: Present Name [illegible] to Proposed Name [illegible]. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: February 25, 2011, at 11:00 A.M. in Dept. # 31, at 201 13th Street, Oakland, CA 94612. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: East Bay Express, Alameda County. Date: October 19, 2010. Signed: [illegible] Judge of the Superior Court
11/24, 12/1, 12/8, 12/15

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 4446[illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible]** Street Address: 1411 Powell St. Emeryville, CA 94608. Mailing Address: Same as above. Is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] 1411 Powell St. Emeryville CA 94608. This business is conducted by a Limited liability company. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 10/1/2010. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 11/03/2010.
[illegible]
11/24, 12/1, 12/8, 12/15/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 444311
The following individual is doing business as **ALFRESCO** Street Address: 2099 Martin Luther King Jr. Berkeley, CA 94704. Mailing Address: P.O. Box [illegible] Berkeley, CA 94701 is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] Adeyemi, 823 22nd St. Apt. A Oakland CA 94608. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on [illegible]/2010.
ALFRESCO
11/24, 12/1, 12/8, 12/15, 2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 444[illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **Knox & Anderson** [illegible] Mailing Address: Same as above. Is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] Inc. [illegible] Oakland CA 94612. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1/1/2007. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 1[illegible]/2010.
Knox & Anderson
11/24, 12/1, 12/8, 12/15/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 444827
The following individual is doing business as **Fictitious Papers** Street Address: [illegible] Oakland, CA [illegible] Mailing Address: Same as above. Is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] Inc. [illegible] CA [illegible]. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 10/1/10. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 11/02/2010.
Fictitious Papers
11/17, 11/24, 12/1, 12/8/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 444653
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible] Day Care Home** Street Address: [illegible] Fremont, CA 94536. Mailing Address: Same as above. Is hereby registered by the following owners: [illegible] 3668 Perry Lane, Fremont, CA 94536. This business is conducted by husband and wife. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on [illegible]/2010.
[illegible] Day Care Home
11/17, 11/24, 12/1, 12/8/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 444[illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible]** Street Address: [illegible] Lakeshore Ave. Oakland, CA 94610. Mailing Address: Same as above. Is hereby registered by the following owners: [illegible] Lakeshore Ave. Oakland CA 94610. This business is conducted by husband and wife. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 11/[illegible]/2010.
[illegible]
12/1, 12/8, 12/15, 12/22/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 444831
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible]** Street Address: [illegible] Mailing Address: Same as above. Is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 10/15/10. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 11/10/2010.
[illegible]
11/17, 11/24, 12/1, 12/8/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 444319
The following individual is doing business as **Paper Airplane Magazine** Street Address: [illegible] Park Blvd Way [illegible] Oakland, CA [illegible]. Mailing Address: Same as above. Is hereby registered by the following owner: Paper Airplane Magazine, LLC 7210 Park Blvd Way [illegible] Oakland CA 94611. This business is conducted by a Limited liability company. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 08/12/10. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 11/[illegible]/2010.
Paper Airplane Magazine
11/17, 11/24, 12/1, 12/8/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 444960
The following individual is doing business as **Anne Boykin Yorkington Mediation** Street Address: [illegible] Colby St., Oakland, CA [illegible]. Mailing Address: Same as above. Is hereby registered by the following owner: Anne Boykin Yorkington, [illegible] Colby St., Oakland, CA 94618. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 11/[illegible]/10. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 11/[illegible]/2010.
Anne Boykin Yorkington Mediation
12/1, 12/8, 12/15, 12/22/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 445030
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible]** Street Address: 3404 Franklin St. # [illegible] Oakland, CA 94610. Mailing Address: Same as above. Is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] 2715 Russell St. Berkeley, CA 94705. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 11/22/10. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 11/24/2010.
[illegible]
12/1, 12/8, 12/15, 12/22/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 443039
The following individual is doing business as **Graphics, Arts & Presentations** Street Address: [illegible] Oakland CA 94609. Mailing Address: P.O. Box 425053, San Francisco, CA 94142. Is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] 40th 42nd Street Oakland, CA 94609. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above in 1997. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 10/21/2010.
Graphics, Arts & Presentations
11/10, 11/17, 11/24, 12/1/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 444587
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible] Associates** Street Address: [illegible] Santa Ray Ave. Oakland, CA 94610. Mailing Address: Same as above. Is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] LLC, [illegible] Santa Ray Ave. Oakland CA 94610. This business is conducted by a Limited liability company. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 10/29/10. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on [illegible]/2010.
[illegible] Associates
11/17, 11/24, 12/1, 12/8/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 443930
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible]** Street Address: 6440 [illegible] Oakland, CA 94609. Mailing Address: Same as above. Is hereby registered by the following owners: [illegible] 6440 [illegible] Oakland, CA 94609; [illegible] 1st Ave. San Francisco, CA 94121. This business is conducted by a General partnership. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 9/20/2010. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 11/[illegible]/2010.
[illegible]
11/24, 12/1, 12/8, 12/15, 2010

T.S. No. [illegible] NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 5/3/2005. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 to the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by duly appointed trustee. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. BENEFICIARY MAY ELECT TO BID LESS THAN THE TOTAL AMOUNT DUE. Trustor(s): [illegible] and Katherine J. Fleming Recorded: [illegible]/2005 as Instrument No. [illegible] in book xxx, page xxx of Official Records in the Office of the Recorder of Alameda County, California; Date of Sale: 12/13/2010 at 12:00 PM [illegible] Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: $[illegible] The purported property address is: [illegible] Park Ave [illegible] Emeryville CA 94608 Assessor's Parcel No. [illegible] The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. If no street address or other common designation is shown, please refer to the referenced legal description for property location. In the event no common address or common designation of the property is provided herein directions to the location of the property may be obtained within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale by sending a written request to [illegible] Mortgage, Inc. [illegible] Coppell TX 75019 Pursuant to California Civil Code §2923.54 the undersigned, on behalf of the beneficiary, loan servicer or authorized agent, declares as follows: [illegible] [illegible] If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, or the Mortgagee's Attorney. Date: Quality Loan Service Corp. [illegible] Avenue San Diego, CA [illegible] [illegible] NON SALE information only: [illegible] [illegible] Quality Loan Service Corp. If you have previously been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter is intended to exercise the note holder's rights against the real property only. THIS NOTICE IS SENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF COLLECTING A DEBT. THIS FIRM IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT ON BEHALF OF THE HOLDER AND OWNER OF THE NOTE. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED BY OR PROVIDED TO THIS FIRM OR THE CREDITOR WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. As required by law, you are hereby notified that a negative credit report reflecting on your credit record may be submitted to a credit report agency if you fail to fulfill the terms of your credit obligations. [illegible] 11/17, 11/24, 12/01/2010

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
[illegible] Generation Development, LLC
Project No. [illegible]

NOTICE OF PRELIMINARY PERMIT APPLICATION ACCEPTED FOR FILING AND SOLICITING COMMENTS, MOTIONS TO INTERVENE, AND COMPETING APPLICATIONS (November 10, 2010)

On October 4, 2010, [illegible] Generation Development, LLC filed an application for a preliminary permit, pursuant to section 4(f) of the Federal Power Act (FPA), proposing to study the feasibility of the [illegible] Ranch Pumped Storage Project to be located on property known as [illegible] Ranch, near the City of Tracy in Alameda County, California. The sole purpose of a preliminary permit, if issued, is to grant the permit holder priority to file a license application during the permit term. A preliminary permit does not authorize the permit holder to perform any land-disturbing activities or otherwise enter upon lands or waters owned by others without the owners' express permission. The project would consist of the following: (1) a proposed upper impoundment having a surface area of about [illegible] acres and a normal water surface elevation of [illegible] feet mean sea level; (2) a proposed lower impoundment having a surface area of about [illegible] acres and a normal surface area of [illegible] feet mean sea level; (3) a proposed waterway connecting the upper impoundment to the lower impoundment; (4) a proposed powerhouse containing [illegible] generation units with a total installed capacity of 280 megawatts; (5) a proposed [illegible]-mile long, 230 [illegible] transmission line; and (6) appurtenant facilities. The proposed project would have an estimated annual generation of about 368 gigawatt-hours (GWh) and a pumping energy consumption of about 472 GWh. The applicant plans to sell the generated energy to a local utility. Applicant Contact: Michael Cutter, Vice President Engineering and Development, [illegible] Renewable Power, Inc., [illegible] MA 01752. FERC Contact: [illegible] 202-502-[illegible]. Deadline for filing comments, motions to intervene, competing applications (without notices of intent), or notices of intent to file competing applications: 60 days from the issuance of this notice. Competing applications and notices of intent must meet the requirements of 18 CFR 4.36. Comments, motions to intervene, notices of intent, and competing applications may be filed electronically via the Internet. See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's website http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support. Although the Commission strongly encourages electronic filing, documents may also be paper-filed. To paper-file, mail an original and seven copies to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426. More information about this project, including a copy of the application, can be viewed or printed on the "eLibrary" link of Commission's website at http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp. Enter the docket number (P-[illegible]) in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary

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Missouri Lounge
Nolo Salon
Oakland East Bay Symphony
[illegible]

Oakland Kosher Foods
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EAST BAY EXPRESS

SAVAGE LOVE

ORGASM ADDICT

How to get on with getting off

By Dan Savage

I'm a 21-year-old woman with bi-curious tendencies who's been in a committed relationship for four years. He's sweet and kind. We share a lot of interests and get along very well. Thing is, I don't know if I'm meant to be in a committed relationship. For the past year and a half I've been thinking about what things would be like with another man. I also frequently imagine what it might be like to sleep with another girl. In fact, whenever I'm masturbating, I get more excited by lesbian scenarios than straight scenarios — although I've never been able to come. I've never experienced an orgasm. But that's another can of worms.

The main problem is this: I find myself steadily losing interest in my current partner. I find myself fantasizing about having sex with other men and other women. I'm open to the possibility of a threesome, but my boyfriend isn't. He's completely against the idea. From the start, I've never hidden the fact that I've never reached orgasm, and he's never created any macho drama about that.

I've slowly come to the realization that I'm no longer sexually attracted to my boyfriend. I don't have the motivation to improve our sex life anymore. I just go through the motions. At the same time, my boyfriend remains my best friend and I'm not willing to give up my best friend over sex. I want to keep him in my life, as he is my most important source of emotional support.

If you, as an "impartial" observer, could help me out, I'd really appreciate it.

Have My Cake

You can have your current boyfriend, HMC, at the price of a lousy and uninspired sex life with a guy who doesn't give a shit about your pleasure — excuse me, a partner who hasn't created a lot of "macho drama" about the fact that you've never had an orgasm and isn't interested in helping you realize your fantasies — or you can find a new boyfriend and/or girlfriend and perhaps discover that orgasms are easier to come by when you're with someone who (1) turns you on and (2) gives a shit about your pleasure and (3) hasn't come to symbolize the death of sexual possibility.

Giving up the current boyfriend means you'll have to find a new emotional tampon — excuse me, a new "source of emotional support" — but that's a price that you should be willing to pay, HMC, particularly at your age.

And if you don't want to find yourself boyfriend-less and best-friend-less ever again, HMC: In the future, keep those roles separate.

I'm a 26-year-old heterosexual male in a relationship with a 25-year-old female. I'm her first boyfriend. She's never had an orgasm that wasn't self-induced. I've asked her multiple times what I can do to try to get her off, but she doesn't really have anything to tell me. There's a lot of trial and error going on. I feel like I'm kind of flying blind. Help please?

This Question Again

If she can get herself off, TQA, then she should be able to get herself off while you assist. Let her get herself off while you watch, while you hold her, while you suck on her tits, while she sits on your face. Gradually work your way up to her getting herself off while you're inside her.

Don't make the "macho drama" mistake of viewing the orgasms she self-induces while you're there as somehow deficient or dysfunctional. The more you can relax and enjoy the orgasms she's self-inducing now — the more you can both relax and enjoy them — the sooner she'll be able to relax, enjoy, and, perhaps, transition to orgasms induced by someone else/someone else's dick.

If you want that someone else/someone else's dick to be you/yours, TQA, then don't be an impatient, insecure macho-drama queen about the way she's capable of having orgasms now.

I am a woman who is with the love of her life. I enjoy sex immensely but have begun to fake orgasms because it hurts him that he is not making me come. I believe the obstruction is psychological. I am self-conscious about my body and can only come using a vibrator while looking at pictures of women with nice boobs. I fantasize that I am both the woman in possession of these assets and the person lusting after her. I am certain of my sexual orientation. I did quite a lot of experimenting with beautiful women, but they did nothing for me. Any insights?

Breasts On Other Babes

Stop faking, BOOB, and start incorporating your vibrator and your fantasies into the sex you're having with the boyfriend. Your boyfriend needs to talk a boob-esteem-building blue streak while you fuck — he needs to tell you how hot your breasts are, how much they turn him on — and you need to use your vibrator on yourself and fantasize aloud about the assets you've got and the assets you lust after while you two are fucking.

You know what works for you, BOOB; you just have to risk sharing it with the love of your life.

I am an eighteen-year-old straight girl. I am also a virgin. After my eighteenth birthday, I bought a small vibrator. I love it — it's completely changed masturbation and I reached orgasm for the first time. However, I'm worried about developing a dependence on it. Should I hold off on using it until I get some real experience?

Teen With A Tech

Enjoy your vibrator, TWAT, and enjoy those orgasms — but mix it up. Masturbate with your vibrator and without, see how worked up you can get through fantasy alone, get yourself close to the edge and finish yourself off with your hand, experiment with non-vibrating, inanimate sex toys. And when you start having sexual experiences with non-vibrating, animate sex toys (boys), don't be shy about introducing them — or their genitals — to your vibrator. Dicks are just big clits, TWAT, and vibrators can work wonders on dicks, too. ●

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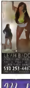

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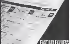

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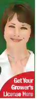

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